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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Better People

Summoning the soul of a nation, Obama implores Americans to become better people.

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Mudslide

Torrential rain and mudslides in Brazil kill at least 257 in 24 hours.

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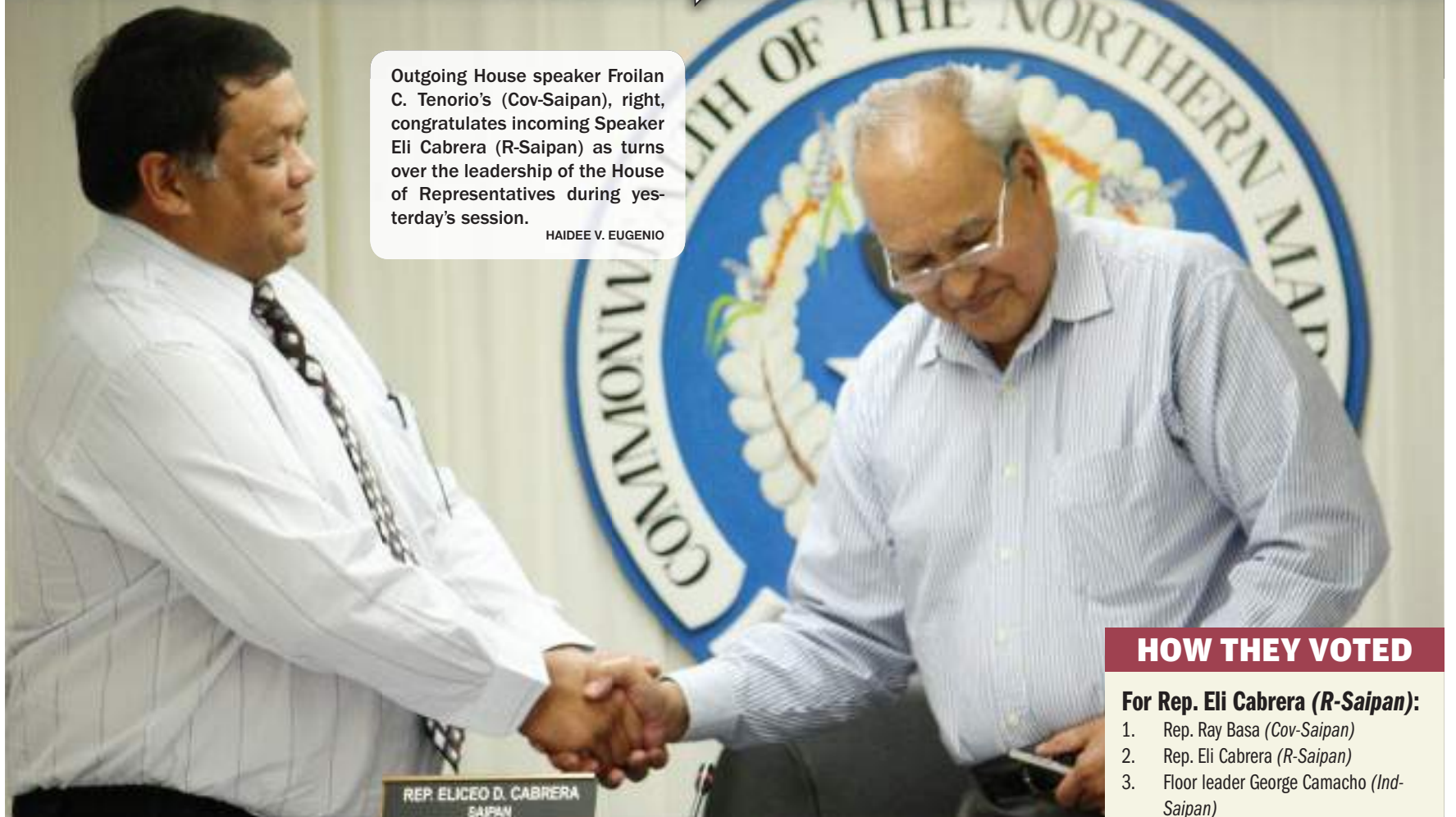
Hidden Symbols

Italian researcher says the key to solving the enigmas of "Mona Lisa" is in her eyes.

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HOUSE SPEAKERSHIP

Froilan out, Cabrera in



Outgoing House speaker Froilan C. Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan), right, congratulates incoming Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) as turns over the leadership of the House of Representatives during yesterday's session.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Froilan C. Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) wish to step down as House speaker came to pass yesterday afternoon after Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) was voted as his replacement. Minority members accused the leadership of ramrodding the voting process.

Within an hour, acting governor Eloy S. Inos administered the oath of office to Cabrera, who defeated House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) on a vote of 12-7.

Benavente, who was in Guam for a meeting of the Pacific Islands Development Bank board of directors, was nominated in absentia by Rep. Joseph Deleon

See **FROILAN** on **Page 4**

HOW THEY VOTED

For Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan):

1. Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan)
2. Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan)
3. Floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan)
4. Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan)
5. Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan)
6. Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan)
7. Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan)
8. Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan)
9. Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan)
10. Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan)
11. Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan)
12. Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan)

For minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan):

1. Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian)
2. Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan),
3. Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan)
4. Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan)
5. Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota)
6. Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan)
7. Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan)

Absent: minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan)

Public schools' facelift in full swing

» **Renovations of school facilities largest investment in 23 years**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER



MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Oleai Elementary School's walkway construction is among the many ongoing projects on campus that is expected to be completed this school year.

The Public School System is on track with the renovation and modernization of its facilities and expects work to be finished by July this year.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh said all PSS infrastructure projects are now in full swing.

See **SCHOOL** on **Page 4**

RELATED NEWS

Five new buses delivered to Saipan public schools.

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Lizama says he nearly fell out of plane. PAGE 2
NMPASI mulls another lawsuit vs Faisao. PAGE 5

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SINCE PROGRAM'S INCEPTION

Only \$13K repaid to SHEFA by 'default' scholars

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Based on existing records of the Department of Finance, only over \$13,000 have been paid by "default" scholars of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance in the last four years.

"It appears that the department recorded approximately \$13,577 in payments received [from scholars]," said SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider, adding that the figure covers the period from May 30,

2006, through Dec. 23, 2010.

Hofschneider believes that the repayment were from scholars who are now working off-island.

"The Finance Department has informed the SHEFA office that it has no accounts receivable ledger for each former recipient of financial assistance who is currently making payments under the terms of the promissory note/memorandum of agreement," said Hofschneider, adding that the \$13,577 collected from previous scholars will be put in the SHEFA account.

To date, Hofschneider said, they have yet to dig SHEFA's records regarding its collectibles from scholars who failed to return and work on Saipan as part of the requirement of the program.

Under the program's rules and regulations, beneficiary students have to return home to work once they graduate from college or their scholarship will be converted into a loan that they will need to repay. Repayment of financial assistance also applies to scholars who return but choose not to work in the private or public sector.

In comparison, the CNMI Scholarship Program recorded \$4 million in collectibles from its scholars as of 2006; only 20

percent or some \$800,000 has been collected.

SHEFA's records of its collectibles were not immediately available.

Hofschneider vowed to aggressively track all SHEFA scholars and complete a list of those who were able to complete their studies, their specialty, where they are now, and whether they are working or not.

Based on SHEFA's annual report, the program had fewer than 200 applications in 2005, but saw a doubling in the numbers in 2006 and 2007. Since then, the number of applicants has continued to climb, averaging at around 500 to 600 every semester.

In the fall 2010, SHEFA received over 900 applications; over 600 were approved for financial assistance. This spring semester 2011, applications received totaled 565.

Based on the same report, SHEFA's average grant award-ees totaled 5,746 from 2004 through August 2010. Of the figure, 2,870 are on-island while 2,876 are off-island awardees.

Last Tuesday, the SHEFA board decided to reduce by up to 50 percent the financial assistance being awarded its scholars due to the dwindling funds for the scholarship program.

Former judge sues Freedom Air; claims he nearly fell out of plane

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama is suing Freedom Air after he allegedly nearly fell out of the plane when the door suddenly opened while the aircraft was airborne on his flight from Saipan to Tinian in 2009.

Lizama sued Freedom Air's owner, Aviation Services (CNMI) Ltd., for negligence and violation of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act.

As a result of the incident, Lizama said he suffered physical injuries, trauma, and emotional distress. He said he was in a state of shock and was very nervous and frightened.

Lizama, through the law offices of O'Connor, wants the Superior Court to order Freedom Air to pay him damages, attorney's fees, and court costs. He wants a jury trial.

Saipan Tribune contacted Freedom Air last night but no one was available to comment.

The complaint alleged that on Jan. 30, 2009, Lizama was the lone passenger of a Freedom Air flight from Saipan to Tinian. The former judge was to attend a funeral of his Tinian District 2008 election cam-

paign manager.

While the plane was airborne, the door, which was not secured well, suddenly opened, the complaint said. Lizama alleged that he nearly fell out.

Lizama was forced to reach out, grab the door handle, and hold the door shut for the remainder of the flight "wondering if he was going to die," the complaint said.

Upon arrival on Saipan, Lizama went to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was treated for high blood pressure, heart palpitations, and anxiety.

"This incident caused Mr. Lizama sleepless nights, injuries requiring past, present and future medical care, suffering, loss of enjoyment of life, mental pain and anguish and other damages," the complaint said.

The complaint alleged that Freedom Air failed to maintain the doorway in a safe condition and also failed to properly train flight personnel in assisting passengers during such incidents.

Lizama retired from the bench in May 2008. He unsuccessfully ran in the landmark election for the first CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives in November 2008.

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11 charges filed vs juvenile detention guard

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

A former detention guard who is already facing charges in federal court for allegedly forcing three female wards at the Kagman Detention Unit to engage in sex acts is facing more charges, this time in local courts.

The Office of the Attorney General filed yesterday with the Superior Court 11 criminal charges against Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial for the same incidents that prompted the federal court case.

The charges include allegations that the 25-year-old Fitial forced two juveniles to have sex with a third person for a type of sex show.

Fitial's lawyer, Joseph James Norita Camacho, immediately criticized the new charges as a waste of limited resources.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Camacho said the federal government is

already charging his client so he believes that the CNMI government just wants to waste limited resources on a person who is already at the Department of Corrections.

Camacho said that just on Wednesday he had praised the CNMI Attorney General for using good judgment in dismissing the case filed in the Superior Court against his other client, former police officer Florencio Q. Richards, who is already being charged in federal court.

"I guess I spoke too soon. One step forward, two steps back. You are not a fisherman if you buy fish at a roadside vendor and you are not a prosecutor for charging someone already at [Corrections]," the lawyer said.

Chief Prosecutor Michael L. Ernest stated in the charging information that on or about October 2009 through February 2010, Fitial forced two female juveniles to have

sex with another person with the intent of "producing a live performance."

In May or June 2010, Fitial sexually abused another juvenile thrice, Ernest said, while in October 2009 through February 2010, Fitial kicked or hit one of the victims.

He said that Fitial also failed to promptly report to the Department of Public Safety his knowledge or suspicion of a child who was abused, neglected or sexually molested.

In the federal court case, the U.S. government charged Fitial with three counts of deprivation of rights under color of law, and one count of enticement of a minor. He pleaded not guilty. The trial will be on April 18, 2011. The Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested Fitial on June 11, 2010.

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'\$100K in leftover grant for desk audit goes back to OIA'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that over \$100,000 in leftover U.S. Office of Insular Affairs grant fund for independent desk audits went back to OIA when the grant expired on Sept. 30, 2010, but the CNMI government may again ask the federal agency to help fund future desk audits.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said he's not at all dismayed that over \$100,000 reverted to OIA "because it's the function of a grant; when you don't use it during a certain period, it expires."

"If you don't spend it, it's reasonable to expect that the funds will go back (to the source). It's also

customary that the recipient can go back to the granting agency, especially if the project is for a good cause," Inos said in an interview right after signing a local bill into a Saipan local law naming an unnamed road "The Chief Aiken Trail" in the governor's conference room yesterday morning.

He said \$100,000 may not be enough to fund an independent desk audit of a government agency after all.

The \$100,000 was part of the \$360,000 OIA grant provided to the CNMI for a government-wide organization review.

The project was later scaled down to a desk audit of only two agen-

cies—the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs which are among the biggest agencies.

MAI found that units under DPS and DCCA are overstaffed, and have unjustifiable and overlapping functions.

The Fitial administration awarded a \$254,459.12 contract to Virginia-based Management Analysis Inc. for the desk audit of DCCA and DPS.

To date, the administration is still weighing MAI's recommendations. Inos said he expects some or many of these recommendations to be implemented starting in February or March.

MAI has a long list of recommen-



Inos

dations to improve the efficiency, delivery of services, meet all local and federal laws and regulations, and produce cost savings at DPS and DCCA.

Inos said the administration is looking at heeding the recommendations to combine offices with similar or duplicative functions for efficiency and cost-savings.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said once the DCCA and DPS recommendations are implemented, the administration will also look at having either an in-house or independent desk audit on other agencies.

"But we need to take care of what we have right now. It doesn't make sense to do more audits when we're not done yet with our review and implementation of the first two audits," he added.

SCHOOL

From Page 1

The commissioner and members of her leadership team visited yesterday the Oleai Elementary School, one of 20 schools that are undergoing major face-lift work this year.

Oleai principal Glenn Muña gave the visitors a tour of the newly replaced classroom shutters, newly painted school buildings, and ongoing work at the campus walkways.

He expressed confidence that the school will complete its roof coating and the replacement of all its more than 50 air-conditioning units before the school year ends.

"This is like a brand new school," said Muña, quoting the reaction of students after returning from their Christmas vacation.

Saipan Tribune learned that Oleai Elementary School got a little over \$500,000 from the state fiscal stabilization fund. Public Law 16-5 gave the school another \$24,000 to build new walkways.

In a visit to a fourth grade class, Sablan and Thornburgh heard firsthand the reaction of students to the improvements they have seen on campus. Both officials explained the importance of having a conducive learning environment for students and the importance of maintaining the facility.

"All the schools' improvement effort is a result of the American Recovery Reinvestment Act signed by President Obama. PSS was among the recipients of the SFSF. So all the funds that we received have been used and have been allocated to the school infrastructure development plan that would address our effective, efficient, safe, and orderly strategic priority," said Sablan.

PSS received a total of \$32.4 million in SFSF money that it must spend before Sept. 30, 2011. The first phase of the grant amounted to over \$22 million; the second phase totaled \$10.1 million.

According to Thornburgh, PSS has already started drawing down from the second phase of the grant.

"Incrementally, we're starting to draw [from] it. For this year, we anticipate spending about \$11 million on the remaining repairs and renovations for our schools and spending about \$7 million for personnel—all under this ARRA money," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The ARRA funding is so far the biggest investment for public schools in the past 23 years, Thornburgh said.

"By far this is the biggest...that's without question. The only thing that compares to it was the general obligation bond in 1998 when we received \$32 million: the bond provided us \$16 million and another \$16 million in CIP money as matching fund," he said.

The 1998 infusion was used to build new schools, while the SFSF is being used to help existing school facilities and programs.

According to Sablan, a significant portion of the SFSF was also used to help teachers become highly qualified, improve schools and after-school programs, student academic activities and programs, and to pay for the salaries of a number of teachers.

Due to the limited local funding for public schools, PSS is also allowed to use a portion of the grant to pay for schools' utility bills.

Sablan said PSS will include in its next budget request a bigger amount for infrastructure maintenance.

FROILAN

From Page 1

Guerrero (R-Saipan).

Inos said the administration had nothing to do with the new speakership, which he said was the call of House members.

Cabrera was Tenorio's special assistant for management and budget when Tenorio was governor in 1994 to 1998.

"I hope this puts to rest the issue of legislative leadership, and that we move forward. I felt there's quite a bit of distraction. I just hope that the minority will work with the majority, and I also ask the majority to work with the minority," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview during a session break.

He said he will work with the Senate—and will be visiting the senators' offices—to be able to start anew and work together in passing important bills.

His predecessor was not in speaking terms with most senators.

Tenorio said it was his idea to step down, and this has been no secret since early 2010.

Disappointments

The voting came a few hours after Tenorio held a meeting with 11 other House members, including Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), at the Kingfisher Golf Resort.

Benavente, in a phone interview after the session, said that, as late as Monday afternoon, Torres and Joseph Palacios had given their word that they will support him.

"In fact, it was Stanley who mentioned that the Group of 10 will be solid...I felt I had their commitment; apparently I didn't. That's the one thing disappointing. It's hard to imagine that you can't trust certain people," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune*.

Despite his disappointment, Benavente said he will work with the leadership to move the CNMI forward.

Deleon Guerrero said he was also surprised that Torres and Joseph Palacios "changed their mind."

Torres said that even if he had voted for Benavente, the former lieutenant governor would still fail to get the majority vote.

Palacios, for his part, said he told the minority leader long before to "check your numbers first."

"And I cannot turn my back on Eli. Eli and I did lots of house-to-house campaigning in Precinct 1 when we were running for the House seat. We also share staff...I also want to say that I work for the people and I am for the people," he said.

'Won't make a difference'

Tenorio, who has long made public his intention to step down from the speakership so he could focus on drafting bills and working part-time at his brother's private firm, said he's "relieved" that he's finally out as speaker.

The former speaker said it wouldn't have made a difference if Benavente was present at the session.

"We had the vote. We would still have 12 votes whether he's here or not," Tenorio said.

Tenorio served as speaker for only a year.

He said he will continue to work on supporting the casino bill that Torres introduced, even after the defeat of his own casino bill at the Senate.

Tenorio also said he will work on drafting bills without putting his name as the author.

"That's because I heard that the Senate will always not pass a bill if they see my name as the author. That's how bad it is," he said in an interview.

'Don't ram it down out throats'

Early in the House session, which began at 1:17pm, Tenorio called for a one-minute moment of silence to pray for the victims of the Arizona shooting.

After a roll call and when there was no public comment, floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) made a motion to suspend House rules and called for the election of Cabrera as speaker.

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and other majority members immediately seconded Camacho's motion.

It was at this point that Deleon Guerrero called for members to follow procedure and to split the motion into two—call for a suspension of House rules first, and when the

rules are suspended, make a separate motion to elect officers.

Ogumoro said the motion is clear.

Deleon Guerrero said the majority was trying to shortcut the process and called the motion "improper."

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) asked legal counsel John Cool whether the voting needs to meet the Open Government Act requirement, to which Cool said "no," because it was an in-House matter.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) echoed Deleon Guerrero's statement that Camacho's two-pronged motion was improper and unfair.

"You're trying to ram it down people throats, with what you want to do today. Let's go through the proper procedures," he said.

How they voted

With the arguments failing to abate, Tenorio asked, "Why don't we split the motion?" He then asked the majority members whether that's okay with them.

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) said he supports this.

But Ogumoro said there's already a motion on the floor, and the author of the motion has to agree first whether he wants to withdraw the motion.

After withdrawing his original motion, Camacho again made a motion to suspend House rules to elect a new speaker, which got 18 votes, while Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) voted "present."

Camacho then nominated Cabrera for speaker, while Deleon Guerrero nominated Benavente. The nomination was closed.

After a brief discussion on how to vote, House clerk Linda Muna started the roll call and members had to state whether they're voting for Cabrera or Benavente when their names are called.

The 12 who voted for Cabrera included Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Cabrera, Camacho, Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), Ogumoro, Joseph Palacios, Ray Palacios, Tenorio, Torres, and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

The seven who voted for Benavente were Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Dela Cruz, Joseph Deleon Guerrero, Rep. Tony Sablan (R-

Saipan), Santos, Tebuteb, and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

Cabrera and Tenorio shook hands and exchanged seats in the chamber.

The new speaker called for a session break after he was told that the acting governor was on his way to administer the oath of office for him.

During the break, Tenorio said he thinks that Cabrera will do a better job than him.

The acting governor was accompanied by his legal counsel Teresa Kim, press secretary Angel Demapan and others from the administration.

The new speaker's sister, Lucy Cabrera Castro, held the Bible while Inos administered the oath of office for Cabrera.

When the session resumed, Ogumoro said she has all the confidence that Cabrera will be able to work with all the members to help the economy and the people.

Ogumoro was originally groomed to replace Tenorio. But Tenorio said he's told there's a possibility that they will lose the leadership if and when Cabrera was not nominated as speaker.

Santos said she congratulates the new speaker, and hopes that "as public servants, we continue to solve pressing economic issues which have been seriously affecting our people and the Commonwealth."

"With that said, as public servants, we must craft together an action plan or put forth positive approaches in moving forward the Commonwealth's economy including defending and protecting the best interest of our people," she said.

Kyle Calabrese, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce who was at the session, said "over the past year, Congressman Cabrera has listened to the concerns of the business community and has demonstrated through his actions his concern for our economy and his commitment not only to businesses, but to the Commonwealth community as a whole."

"We look forward to his bringing this commitment to the Office of the Speaker and we look forward to working with him in this regard," he said, when asked for comment.

NMPASI mulls another lawsuit vs Faisao

» **For denying PSS teacher access to juvenile facility**

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The lawyer for the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. said another lawsuit against Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao is imminent after a public school teacher was denied access to the Kagman Juvenile Detention Facility.

Matthew J. Holley said that the Public School System had sent a special education teacher to the detention unit after learning about the need to provide educational services at the facility.

Faisao had earlier submitted a declaration in federal court that PSS "has been unwilling to provide such [educational] services despite all of my efforts to urge them to live up to their statutory duty."

According to Holley, DCCA had been insisting that PSS provide a special education teacher for qualified detainees at the facility.

Holley said they were elated by the news on Jan. 7 that PSS had sent a special education teacher to the unit.

"This, we hoped, marked a new era of increased services at the facility with more developments to come for some of our island's wayward children. But our elation was short-lived," he said.

Holley said the teacher went to the facility for four days and

was denied access each time.

According to Holley, he notified the facility and the Attorney General's Office about the problem and requested for immediate correction on the first day that the teacher was denied access but he did not receive any response.

He said the same teacher returned on the second and third day and was denied again. "The only explanation given for the denial was that the teacher was not cleared for access," added Holley. He pointed out that the teacher was on a list of authorized teachers for the facility.

Holley said he spoke to assistant attorney general Jim Mitchell, who was present during a visit to the facility, to clear up the matter. However, the facility still denied the same teacher access on the fourth consecutive day.

"NMPASI placed a certain amount of pressure on PSS to ensure a teacher provided the essential services at the facility. But I do not see how NMPASI can continue to pressure PSS given JDU's actions," he said.

Holley further stated that Faisao had claimed in his declaration that the facility "does not house any individuals with disabilities and has not done so during my tenure."

However, NMPASI has since submitted a list of several juvenile detainees with disabilities during Faisao's tenure.

Holley noted that Faisao himself acknowledged in two news articles in 2008 that there are children with disabilities in the facility.

"The children at the facility

have been denied these essential services for so long I have such a difficult time understanding why Faisao continues to stand as an obstacle, especially in light of the recent court case. Unfortunately I believe that litigation is the only alternative, yet again," he added.

Off-island

Based on a memorandum signed by acting governor Eloy S. Inos on Jan. 10, Faisao is off-island on official business from Jan. 8 to 17.

Inos appointed Rhonda F. Nogis as acting secretary until Faisao's return.

Saipan Tribune was unable to obtain comments from Nogis regarding the issue.



Faisao

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Five new buses delivered to Saipan public schools



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Education officials and students of Oleai Elementary School pose for a photo during yesterday's ceremonial turnover of five brand new regular buses to the Public School System. The new fleets, to be assigned to Saipan schools, will bring to 21 the total regular buses available for Saipan students this school year. The new buses were procured using grants from the Federal Transit Administration.

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System received yesterday five brand new school buses that will be assigned to Saipan schools beginning this school year.

The 66-seat school buses were procured using grants provided by the Federal Transit Administration for fiscal year 2010.

In a ceremonial turnover at Oleai Elementary School yesterday, PSS bus program manager Eric Atalig received the new buses from Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, associate commissioner Peter Le'au, federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, and other education officials.

Thornburgh said the new fleet of school buses cost over \$500,000. He said PSS expects to get more vehicles once a new grant is allocated for PSS.

Besides the new buses, PSS was also able to renovate its bus department facility in Lower Base using the same funding source, he added.

According to Atalig, the new buses would bring to 21 the total

number of 66-seat school buses for Saipan schools. The new buses will be operational in the next few weeks after they are registered.

In addition to the buses, Saipan also has five minivans and two nine-passenger vans for special programs. Rota schools have two regular buses, two minivans, and a nine-passenger van for all its students. Tinian schools have three regular buses and one minivan for special education students.

Despite these 21 buses for Saipan, Atalig says these are still not enough to enable PSS to assign a regular bus to every campus.

Of the 21 buses on Saipan, one needs to be serviced, while some are already old and need to be replaced. He said old school buses are usually used as backup for new vehicles. There are 18 drivers operating school buses on Saipan.

Sablan expressed yesterday her gratitude to the federal agency for continuously providing help to Commonwealth students, adding that it is PSS' hope to replace all old buses to ensure the safety of students.

OGA request seeks data on expenditure of Tinian funds

A former member of the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council filed yesterday an Open Government Act request for information on the expenditure of public funds by the Tinian Mayor's Office.

Felipe Q. Atalig addressed his request to Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz and acting municipal treasurer Allen Perez, with copies furnished to assistant attorney general Craig Deitrich and various government offices.

Atalig asked for a copy of documents related the 2010 fiesta donations; payments and reimbursements for freight expenses on the shipment of 100 cases of beer donated by Marpac; inventory list of the beers if these were not used for the mayor's personal consumption; and all contracts

and agreements awarded to any business, including the mayor's son, Peter T. Dela Cruz, for the maintenance of the Taga Park since Jan. 1, 2010.

According to Atalig, several Tinian residents have raised concerns about possible abuse in the expenditure of public funds.

"Although I did not promise any person that I will get the public records pertaining to their respective concerns, I feel obligated to continue to assist the people in whatever way I can," he said.

Atalig said he had previously made similar requests but was never provided the documents he was asking for.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from the Tinian mayor but he did not return calls as of press time. (Clarissa David)

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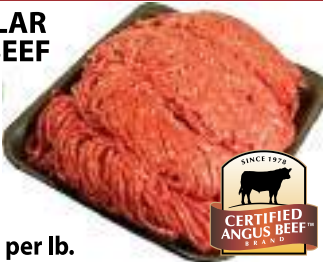
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January 14-20, 2011

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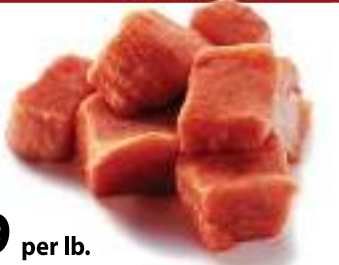
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Chief Aiken Trail bill is now a local law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hours before being replaced as House speaker of the 17th Legislature, Rep. Froilan Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) local bill naming an unnamed road on Mt. Tapochau the Chief Aiken Trail was signed into a local law yesterday.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed into Saipan Local Law 17-7 Tenorio's House Local Bill 17-16 in a brief ceremony in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday morning.

The newly signed law names the road after the late Peter Steve Aiken, who was known as Chief Aiken back in the '60s to '80s.

Chief Aiken rid Saipan, as well as other Micronesian islands, of hundreds of thousands of live war ordnance. He was also the one who made the Last Command Post an open museum of war artifacts in Marpi that has become a historical attraction for tourists and residents.

Keli Aiken Tenorio, Chief Aiken's daughter, said she's happy and honored that her father has not been forgotten by the community he served.

"A lot of our elders have been forgotten. Let's get their names back for our children. It's not just my father who has been honored today but all those who have yet to be recognized," she told those gathered in the governor's conference room.

Her husband Norman Tenorio and two of their five children, Jose and Soledad, also attended the ceremony.

The acting governor said the naming of the road on behalf of Chief Aiken "is befitting of a man who was a leader in taking on such a brave mission for the safety of our islands."

"The removal and disposal of the World War II ordnance was a great feat toward secur-



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

ing and preserving our islands' protection," said Inos, who also shared stories about how he came to know Chief Aiken back in the days.

Inos said the designation of the unnamed road as Chief Aiken Trail also "brings about an image of the Chief with the many Chamorro and Refaluwasch men tirelessly following the trails of ordnances."

Keli Aiken Tenorio brought with her a framed photo of her father receiving a Silver Star Award "back in the Pearl Harbor days." The daughter said the award was for his bravery in saving the lives of the crewmembers of a U.S. Navy PT Boat he was on that was torpedoed by the Japanese during World War II.

"He was about 20 when he got this award," Keli Aiken Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*. Former speaker Tenorio didn't make it to the signing of his local bill at 9am yesterday, because he was meeting with members of the House majority.

When interviewed later, he said he thought his local bill had already been signed into a local law.



Besides removing war ordnance, Chief Aiken was also able to rebuild a Japanese Zero or kamikaze plane that he was able to put on display on Saipan back in the days. When Chief Aiken had to leave Saipan to attend to his sick father in the states, he offered to keep the Japanese plane on the island but the visitors bureau at the time didn't have funding for it, his son-in-law Norman Tenorio earlier said.

Some Japanese interested in the Zero plane bought it from Chief Aiken and it is now on display at an aviation museum in Fukuoka, Japan. There are only four to six Zero planes that are still intact, and one of those

is the one that his father-in-law was able to rebuild after the war, Norman Tenorio said.

During the war, the plane didn't take off from the Marshall Islands because it was hit by U.S. planes on the ground. Its pilot survived. That Japanese pilot and Chief Aiken, who was a gunner for the U.S. forces during the war, met years later. Keli Aiken Tenorio said it was a touching event when the two—who were on opposite sides of the war—met each other during peace time.

Chief Aiken's daughter said her father passed away of a heart attack in the states within six months after returning there from Saipan some 25 years ago.

Lawyer Jane Mack of the Micronesian Legal Services on Saipan will also discuss "The Challenge for Justice for All in the Marianas."

Hill said there will be an open forum at the end of the presentation.

The committee president also said that there will be a special video presentation by CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan who will not be able to make it to Monday's celebration due to prior commitment.

Hill urged the community to join Monday's celebration and do something affirmative and meaningful to commemorate the occasion.

"We should treat it as a 'Day On' rather 'Day Off' in hopes of doing something positive for the community today and through the years," he added.

For more information, call Hill at 234-7743 or committee vice president Willie Brundidge at 256-0615.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 14, 1999

CPA issues caution on casino-support infrastructure

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has cautioned the Tinian Legislative Delegation in carrying out infrastructure developments in support of the hotel casino on the island-municipality of Tinian. In a letter sent to the Tinian lawmakers, Carlos H. Salas, executive director, said gaming activity has the potential to stimulate the economy on the island as well as support its future development. However, unless Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino would be able to arrange regular air transportation for its clients, it is difficult to conclude that it would be successful in tapping the demand of the gaming industry.

CUC forum tackles environment

A forum will be held next week by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to discuss the environmental impact and the financial cost of a proposed water desalination plant on Saipan. The town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday and will hear comments from residents of central Saipan whether they are willing to pay higher water rates to finance the multimillion dollar project. "We want the customers to zoom in on the financial question of higher rates and tell us either 'yes' or 'no'," CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez said in a statement. According to the water master plan mapped out by the government-owned firm, a desalination facility would be required by the year 2000 depending on population, customer apathy as well as lack of conservation efforts and other factors.

Jan. 14, 2000

New water test to cost wellhead owners big bucks

The Division of Environmental Quality is set to conduct a chemical monitoring of all public water systems which will require all establishments in the CNMI to pay a minimum of \$10,000 for each wellhead. According to Ignacio Cabrera, DEQ Director, the monitoring requirements for a three-year period is part of the agency's Safe Drinking Water program. The cost of analysis for one set of samples is approximately \$2,700. If an establishment has more than one well, then owners would have to pay more. The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. may have to pay \$1 million to \$2 million for the analysis of its water system.

Saipan turns radio-gaga over KWAU

Every night, disc jockey and general manager Rolly Mamuntag has his hands full answering the telephone, listing down the request of his countless listeners to play their favorite songs. Those who cannot contact the radio station, including residents from Tinian, just send in their requests through fax. "As soon as I put down the phone, it will be ringing again in split seconds. The fax won't stop ringing, we always run out of paper," said Mamuntag. No doubt, three-month-old radio station KWAU (100.3 FM) is making waves in the CNMI. The two-hour OPM (Original Pilipino Music) program started from 10:00 to 12:00 p.m. in October 1999.

Jan. 14, 2002

Korean Air's return brings rays of hope

The CNMI government welcomed as a ray of hope Korean Airlines' inaugural flight early Saturday morning after years of absence in the Northern Marianas, which has been plagued with declining tourist traffic. Pinning their hopes on the return of the Korean tourist market, the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Commonwealth Ports Authority are confident that the Seoul-based carrier's return will provide a major push on the local travel sector. Present to welcome the Commonwealth's Korean guests, Gov.-elect Juan N. Babauta described Korean Air's return to Saipan as a gift to his administration - which will take control of the CNMI government beginning today.

Teno signs first qualifying certificate

Foreign investors are beginning to take notice of the new set of perks offered by the Commonwealth to businessmen who will infuse fresh capital into the Northern Marianas economy under a recently-enacted investments law. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio issued Friday the Commonwealth's first Qualifying Certificate to SandCastle, a Guam-based company that will build a multi-million-dollar entertainment center on Saipan. The Qualifying Certificate grants SandCastle Saipan tax relief for 25 years—100 percent tax rebates and abatements for the first 10 years; 75 percent for the next five years; and 75 percent for the remaining 10 years.

MLK Day program for Monday all set

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

What civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for over five decades ago still remains significant up to the present time, according to lawyer Joe Hill.

Hill, who is the president of the African American Cultural Preservation Committee on Saipan, said that the CNMI continues to experience discrimination in various forms.

"Discrimination is no longer a black and white problem. These days, we get to see discrimination against Asians, even the nonresident workers," he said in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

Now more than ever, Hill said it is important to take the same stand as the prominent civil rights figure did in the past.

"People should want to outgrow that discrimination and

instead keep a positive attitude with his fellow men and the community," he added.

The CNMI will join the rest of the United States in commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 17.

Hill said the committee has organized a program of activities in celebration of the event at 1pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center Theater.

He said that this year's theme, "I Have a Dream: Reifying the Dream in the Mariana Islands," is founded on King's celebrated speech, which called for equality and an end to discrimination.

"The dream should be a commitment that we make on a continuing basis throughout the years," he emphasized.

Hill said Jesse Pennington, a lawyer born and raised in Mississippi where racism was extensive, would talk about his

background and experiences.

According to Hill, Pennington's presentation would center on the comparison of his law practice in the United States and during his time in the Micronesian Legal Services in Palau in the 1970s.

"He will be able to compare and discuss with us the two legal systems and the contrast between the delivery of services and justice in the mainland and the Micronesia," said Hill.

Hill disclosed that Pennington was scheduled to arrive early to visit public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota but got delayed because of the bad weather on the East Coast.

He said Pennington will arrive on Saturday, Jan. 15, in time for his radio spot on "Your Humanities Half Hour" with Catherine Perry Anderson on Power 99 the following day.

House scraps \$350 mandatory driver's education requirement

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed yesterday afternoon a bill that seeks to scrap the mandatory driver education that has been costing residents \$350, on top of the total \$100 needed to secure student and driver's licenses.

House members said the \$350 is "too costly" for residents, especially during these tough economic times.

The bill will also cut the driver's license fee from \$80 to only \$40, while the \$20 for a student driver license remains.

Senate Bill 17-20, which will repeal Public Law 15-25 in its entirety, goes back to the Senate for action. It passed the House on a vote of 15-0.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes's (R-Saipan) bill originally sought to suspend the mandatory driver education prerequisite to obtaining a driver's license and to authorize the Public School System to establish a student driver education program. PSS did not support this idea.

The bill went through several amendments. When House members tackled the bill at their Monday session, floor

leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) offered written amendments.

Camacho offered to repeal PL 15-25 in its entirety and amended other sections. The members adopted his amendment.

At yesterday's session, Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) further proposed to amend the bill by reducing to half the cost of the driver's license from the current \$80 to \$40.

His amendment also removed a line giving 40 percent of the collected fees to the general fund.

He also increased from 30

percent to 50 percent the portion of the fees to go toward the operations and programs of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, as well as increase from 20 percent to 35 percent the amount going to the Department of Public Works for the upkeep and maintenance of road shoulders.

Palacios's amendment also raised from 10 percent to 15 percent the funding percentage going toward the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the upkeep and maintenance of street lights.

He also deleted a line stating that the Finance secretary is the expenditure authority for 40 percent of the fund collect-

ed that go toward the general fund. Members approved these amendments.

Palacios' House Committee on Education, in their report on SB 17-20, said the PL 15-25's intent was to make highways and roads safer by requiring persons applying for a driver's license for the first time to take a mandatory driver's education class.

"During these trying times, most families cannot afford to pay \$350 for their child to take the driver's education class," the committee said.

There is only one commercial business on Saipan that offers

a certified driver's education class, while there's none on either Rota or Tinian.

The Department of Public Safety suspended the mandatory education class requirement for first time drivers on Rota and Tinian, but not on Saipan.

"In light of this discrepancy, many first time drivers from the islands of Rota and Tinian legally obtain their driver's license the old fashion way yet their counterparts on the island of Saipan are mandated by law to attend and pass the driver's education class before being issued a driver's license," the committee said.



RECOVERY SUMMIT

From left, McDonald's Saipan owner Joe Ayuyu, businessman Anthony Pellegrino, and former speaker Pedro Deleon Guerrero share a light moment after Wednesday's meeting between businesses and lawmakers on how to revive the struggling economy.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Opinion

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By PIERRE KRAHENBUHL

International Committee of the Red Cross

Pierre Krahenbuhl, the director of operations for the International Committee of the Red Cross, 19 Avenue de la paix CH 1202 Geneva, Switzerland; website: <http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>. This essay is available to McClatchy-Tribune News Service subscribers. McClatchy-Tribune did not subsidize the writing of this column; the opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of McClatchy-Tribune or its editors.



The militarization of aid and its perils

The rise in the killing of aid workers last year points to profound questions that confront aid agencies. As attacks on humanitarians increase and aid becomes more politicized and militarized, I believe we are witnessing a set of paradigm shifts that will deeply affect how organizations provide life-saving aid in war. The stakes could not be higher for humanitarian agencies and the victims of armed-conflict.

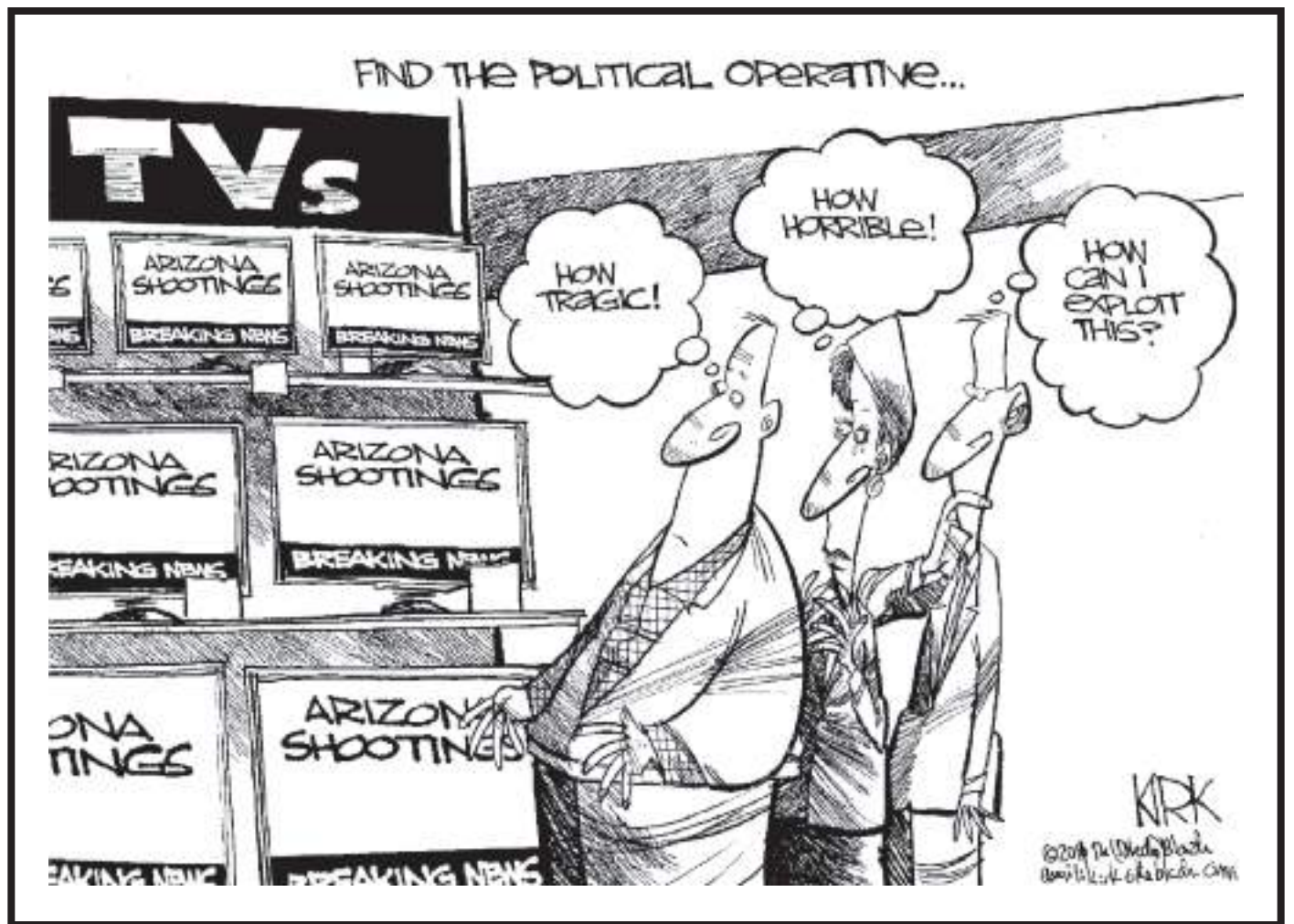
Over the past decade, deliberate attacks against humanitarian personnel have become commonplace. They are clearly illegal and unacceptable and must be condemned in the strongest terms. The rejection of humanitarians is, however, also the by-product of policies that integrate humanitarian aid into political and military strategies. For some time now, this has been known as the "blurring of lines" debate: Is it appropriate for armed forces to be involved in humanitarian activities?

For the International Committee of the Red Cross, the question is not whether the military can contribute to humanitarian efforts; it, for example, has an obligation under international humanitarian law to evacuate wounded civilians. Aid becoming part of counter-insurgency strategies, however, is much more problematic. I have never forgotten a press statement issued by international forces in Afghanistan a couple of years ago emphasizing that humanitarian assistance was helping them and Afghan forces win the "fight against terrorism."

Such developments lead parties to conflicts and affected populations to associate all humanitarians with specific political and military goals in Afghanistan and beyond. When humanitarian action becomes part of strategies aimed at defeating an enemy, the risks for aid agencies in the field grow exponentially. This is when a bright red line must be drawn.

Heightened security concerns mean reduced access for humanitarian organizations in places where the population may be in dire need of strictly humanitarian assistance. Looking at countries in which the ICRC runs some of its larger operations—Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia or Yemen—I am struck by how few aid agencies are actually able to gain regular access to populations and run independent operations. Some may question the value of independent, neutral and impartial humanitarianism in today's wars. However, as an organization present and active in conflict for close to 150 years, including in those fought by insurgents, we know that these very principles enable us to reach, assist and seek to protect those caught in armed conflict.

A little known facet of our activities in Afghanistan illustrates the value of independent humanitarian action. Since 2007, the

See **MILITARIZATION** on Next Page

Dear Martin

Woodie W. White, the first General Secretary of the Methodist's General Commission on Religion and Race, writes a yearly birthday letter to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. about the progress of racial equality in the United States. His "Dear Martin" letter began in 1976, eight years after the fateful day when the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize was gunned down in a Memphis motel balcony.

Four decades after MLK's assassination, Barack Obama is elected to the most powerful political office in the world, the President of the United States of America. Senator Obama launched his campaign from Springfield, Illinois where bloody rioting 100 years before led to the formation of the NAACP a few days later in NYC. The journey of a century sojourned at the White House. Woodie's 2009 letter mirrored "Joy beyond description!"

Pastor Joe Lowery gets special mention in Woodie's 2010 letter. An MLK associate at the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Lowery endorsed Obama's candidacy early, staunchly supported the campaign, and was invited to pronounce the benediction at Obama's inauguration.

About to hit 90 this year, Lowery's closing prayer packed in moving and melodic words from the opening strains of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, aka The Negro National Anthem, ending with an unabashed interpolation of Big Bill Bloonzy Black, *Brown and White*:

*Lord, in the memory of all the saints
who from their labors rest,
and in the joy of a new beginning,
we ask you to help us work for that day
when black will not be asked to get [in] back,
when brown can stick around,
when yellow will be mellow,
when the red man can get ahead, man;
and when white will embrace what is right.
Let all those who do justice and love mercy say Amen!
Say Amen! And Amen!*

The sense of humor was lost among critics who pounced on the style and subject as inappropriate for the occasion.

In the letter, Woodie points to pundits' premature naming of Obama's ascendancy as the beginning of America's "post-racial era," a supposition gravely challenged by experience in the two years following. A student wrote of 2008-'10: "We saw white supremacist pack heat, invade town hall meeting, wave homemade signs of gorillas, African witch doctors, swastikas, Obama's head on boxes of waffle mix...On election day, I saw a lynched effigy hanging from the tree of a college's front lawn. CNN was there."

But the year also saw Hispanic Sonia Montemayor nominated and elected into the black robes of the Supreme Court; Eric Holder became the first African-American Attorney General of the nation. Woodie ended his 2010 letter with MLK's dream of people being "judged on the content of their character and not the color of their skin."

"Dear Martin" of 2011 carries the same tone of affirmation.

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



Woodie W. White at 75 is getting on with age, playing retired bishop-in-residence at the Chandler School of Theology in Atlanta, GA. One of four members of a World Council of Churches' commission to combat racism in Australia and New Zealand, he recalls that in his lifetime he witnessed gigantic gains in race relations. "America has been changed dramatically and fundamentally by legislative actions that included an anti-lynching bill, a Fair Employment bill, a Supreme Court decision declaring segregation in public education unconstitutional, a Voting Rights Act, and a Civil Rights bill."

But as we all know, we cannot legislate morality, nor can we coerce ethics. The age of vitriol is broadcast everywhere, and the Giffords shooting is not an aberration in violent America. It is mainstream and some policies are deeply embedded in our communal psyche like the right to bear arms that heated barbecue backyard conversations in Fairfax, VA where I lived in the '90s. My first home on Saipan was in Kannat Tabla, not too far from the firing range where the Yanbian caretaker dropped to the bottomless pit of his despair, and fired at neighbors, tourists, and himself. The players may have changed on Martin's issues of the malaise of the human spirit, but the sociological challenges of Jim Crow's behavior remain slow to change. Evolutionary speed needs to keep up with revolutionary deed.

The racial issue takes on a concrete challenge at home. We invited workers who now call our shores home. The issue is not abstract, for at its core is race, e.g., elderly Kim gets the brunt of physical abuse from our out-of-school youth casing mom-and-pop stores to rob so they could afford their joints, Inday wears skimpy attire and unrobes for our pleasure, Mei Li pours libations into our cup and hail Mahmud's taxi when we've imbibed one too many before reaching Ali's security door, we charge monthly numerous folks \$150 per room for shared kitchen/bathroom and private bed space whose electrical connections and health standards would not pass regulatory inspection. Add the innocents born accused of coming into the world to simply further their parents' immigration status, vilified alien masseuses, clerks and nurses, and Chamolinians going away to school or the military not wanting to return for absence of significant opportunities, and one has a cauldron of civil rights issues neither our courts nor current laws can graciously untangle.

Dear Martin, we're still here. May we not have to pay the same cost as you did in your time to struggle our chosen struggle.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Name that price

On that last day of last year, as I looked toward 2011 in this space, I said: "Here's another thing to watch next year: prices. Prices of gas, prices of clothes, and prices of food."

Yep. Watch indeed! What a way to start a year. The gas price monster didn't miss a beat, eh? Yesterday's price at the pump was up to \$4.129 for self-serve regular. This is, of course, the result of a steady climb in crude oil prices, sort of a two-steps-up and one-step-down ratchet job that began last May, and in the past couple of weeks has been in the two-steps up mode again.

This stuff makes financial headlines when prices approach big, round numbers, and this time around is no exception. Oil is priced in a bunch of different grades, and prices for commonly quoted ones are standing at about \$92 to \$98 right now. That \$98 is for London Brent, and, as you can imagine, calls of "oil is soaring to the hundred buck level!" are being heard 'round the world.

Well, as spooky as that is, I don't put any stock in big, round numbers, and although they make good headlines there's no such thing as "approaching" a benchmark price, I mean you're either there, or you aren't. It's not the benchmark that gets my attention; it's the trend. Still, I say "approaching" all the time, even though I know it's meaningless. Hey, there ain't no rest for the wicked.

Meanwhile, you probably know that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. had to raise its rates, hitting a wicked \$0.28125 per kWh for the residential flavor yesterday.

I'm worried about this. Even if energy prices don't go any higher, they're still painful for the Commonwealth. I'll use round numbers to make a rough point: If a household burns 1,000 kWh a month of electricity, which is easy to do, and if it has two cars, each of which drives

800 miles a month and gets the typically lousy stop-and-go 15 mpg of island driving, then that household's energy costs will come to \$8,660 a year. And that is mild consumption in my book. I know a lot of households that will top \$10,000 a year at these prices, easily.

The price increases we've seen will take months to ripple through the economy, as consumers have less to spend on other stuff. This is a brutal, zero-sum, disposable income game. Businesses therefore have to accept a double whammy of reduced consumer demand along with the higher energy prices that the business itself must pay. All pain. No gain.

The same applies to Mobil and Shell stations, by the way. Those higher prices at the pump aren't more profit, they're less business. And, incidentally, less action at the gas pump means less action at the stations' convenience stores as well. So, yet again, it's double whammy time. So don't blame the stations, they're getting hosed by high oil prices just like everyone else is.

Speaking of getting hosed, remember I mentioned prices of food earlier? Well, since I'm on a price rant, let's turn a hairy eyeball at this stuff to see what bogey men are lurking.

Stockpiles of corn and soybeans are reportedly waning in the U.S. I'll flip a coin and choose corn for a look-see. Hey, good choice, the U.S. is the world's largest producer of corn, which will be no surprise if you've ever driven across Nebraska, lengthwise, which is what I did the day after I got my driver's license as a kid. Actually, I hit Iowa first. Corn. Then Nebraska. More corn. The U.S. has roughly 95 million acres of corn crops, and I feel like I've driven through every acre.

I should have met a farmer's daughter or two along the way, but they were otherwise engaged with traveling salesmen. My loss; I could have

Cause and effect and Tucson

The news media once again scrambled this past week to find the deep underlying causes of shocking events. We saw this impulse in the rush to explain the tragic murder of six people at a shopping center in Tucson. And we saw it in the rush of stories about mass die-offs of birds and fish across the country.

In the case of the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in Tucson, attention has turned to the motives of the alleged shooter, 22-year-old Jared Lee Loughner, whose political ramblings about returning to the gold standard and about excessive control by the government have sent the news media searching for answers in the vitriol of right-wing talk radio, the rhetoric of the "tea party" movement, and the bellicose divide between Democrats and Republicans in Congress and elsewhere.

The mass die-offs of fish and birds have spurred a number of deep causal theories, including suggestions that the apocalypse is near and that secret government experiments are to blame.

We live in a causal universe, so all effects do have causes, but before we turn to grand, overarching causal theories such as political rhetoric or government experiments, we must always remember the clustering effect of randomness and how our brains tend to look for and find meaningful patterns even where none exist. Toss a handful of pennies into the air and you will notice that they do not land randomly on the ground. They cluster into apparently non-random patterns in which some are closer and others are farther apart. There is nothing inherently hidden in such a clustering effect—no concealed forces under the ground causes the pennies to fall as they do. It's just chance. But our brains abhor randomness and seek meaning.

The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that about 1 percent of the population suffers from schizophrenia, and that more than 25 percent of us have some kind of diagnosable mental disorder. This means that about 3 million people with psychosis are walking among us, as well as tens of millions more whose mental health is askew in some way. And many of those who need treatment aren't receiving it. Given these statistics, events such as the shooting in Tucson are bound to happen, no matter how nicely politicians talk to one another on the campaign trail or in Congress, no matter how extreme tea party slogans are about killing government programs, and no matter how stiff or loose gun control laws are in this or that state. By chance—and nothing more—there will always be people who do the unthinkable.

According to National Audubon Society biologist Melanie Driscoll, about 5 billion birds die each year in the United States from a variety of causes. Because of the clustering effect of randomness, it is inevitable that some of those billions of birds

By MICHAEL SHERMER

Los Angeles Times

Michael Shermer is the publisher of *Skeptical* magazine, a monthly columnist for *Scientific American*, an adjunct professor at Claremont Graduate University and the author of *Why People Believe Weird Things*. He wrote this for the *Los Angeles Times*.



will die in apparent non-random clusters. The 5,000 red-winged blackbirds that died in Arkansas, for example, looks like an ominous cluster when scattered about the ground, but there are more than 200 million red-winged blackbirds in the United States, and, according to Driscoll, they fly in flocks of 100,000 to 2 million. Although 5,000 birds falling dead out of the sky sounds positively apocalyptic, it represents a scant 0.000025 percent of the total population.

Of course there are specific causes for specific events. We will, in time, learn of the particular personal and social conditions behind the heinous act Loughner allegedly committed. And biologists are already identifying the causes of each fish and bird die-off. The Arkansas blackbirds, for example, died during a New Year's Eve fireworks display, which may have

been a contributing factor.

Driscoll notes that the birds "cannot see well in the dark, and we know they were seen crashing into buildings and cars and poles. Necropsies show blunt-force trauma to brain and breast." Others died near power lines that are thin and hard to see at night. The American Bird Conservancy notes that of the 5 billion annual bird deaths, about 1 billion birds are killed each year in collisions with buildings, communication towers, windmills and other human-made structures. We just never hear about them unless such deaths happen in clusters and are reported in the media, thereby triggering a type of mass hysteria that leads to conspiratorial thinking and what I call patternicity: the tendency to find meaningful patterns in both meaningful and meaningless noise.

Patternicity is what our brains do. We can't help it. We see those clusters of events and naturally seek out deep causal meaning in some grand, overarching theory. But as often as not, events in life turn on chance, randomness and statistical probabilities that are largely beyond our control. So calls for "an end to all overt and implied appeals to violence in American politics"—such as that just issued by MoveOn.org—may make us feel better, but they will do nothing to alter the inevitability of such one-off events in the future.

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



married money. Big money. After all, from the chart I'm looking at, corn prices appear to have jumped over 50 percent from mid-2010 (for March 2011 deliveries). It's a weird market right now. Frankly, it has me baffled. There, I said it. Any corn experts out there? I'd welcome an e-mail. Anyway, as for where we are right now, there's no denying that higher is, well, higher. I'm not suggesting that everyone on Saipan start getting high blood pressure over corn prices, but, well, I'm not suggesting that anyone ignores food prices either.

Well, it's a good time to remind you that the market price page I put on my website is still available for your perusal. If I get ambitious (hey, it could happen) I might improve that page a bit, so feel free to pass on requests or suggestions.

Anyway, at least we're keeping a wary eye on this price drama, you and me both, because this year is off to an action-packed start.

MILITARIZATION

From Page 10

ICRC has been able to organize safe passage for Afghan Ministry of Health and World Health Organization workers who carry out polio vaccinations for children in the south of the country. This safe space is negotiated with the Taliban and respected by U.S., NATO, and Afghan security forces. The ICRC regularly facilitates the transfer of wounded and handover operations for released hostages in Afghanistan. Operations of this kind are only possible because all parties to the conflict know that the ICRC does not take sides and intervenes on strictly humanitarian grounds.

The time-tested modus operandi of the ICRC is not that of all humanitarian actors. The aid community is very diverse in its approaches and an honest review of its various practices and their effects is needed. I note a growing pessimism in the aid community and nostalgia for what is often called a shrinking "humanitarian space." In fact, our experience tells us that there is simply no such thing as a pre-established, protected "humanitarian space."

Today's armed conflicts are protracted and fragmented. In eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the ICRC interacts with 40 different armed groups or factions. In such situations, the space

Over the past decade, deliberate attacks against humanitarian personnel have become commonplace. They are clearly illegal and unacceptable and must be condemned in the strongest terms.

needed for action is created daily and over time: by building relations; by not taking acceptance for granted; by matching words with deeds; by adopting a principled approach and following it with great discipline. The ICRC, for one, believes in consistent neutrality and independence as a way to build trust.






This is not the only way to engage in humanitarian action but aid agencies cannot have it both ways: asking for armed escorts to reach populations in need one day and criticizing those same military forces for blurring the lines the next cannot be a solution. In fact, this very inconsistency creates further problems in terms of perception and trust. Humanitarians cannot simply point fingers and exclude their own choices and actions from the debate.

Given the stakes, I believe it is essential that political and military decision makers seriously confront the far reaching consequences of making humanitarian aid an integral part of counter-insurgency operations. Humanitarian organizations for their part must debate the consequences of their choices in a more self-critical and honest fashion and genuinely decide how they wish to operate. Failure to do so will continue to weaken the security of humanitarian workers and, more significantly, further isolate and endanger the victims of armed conflict.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 85° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77

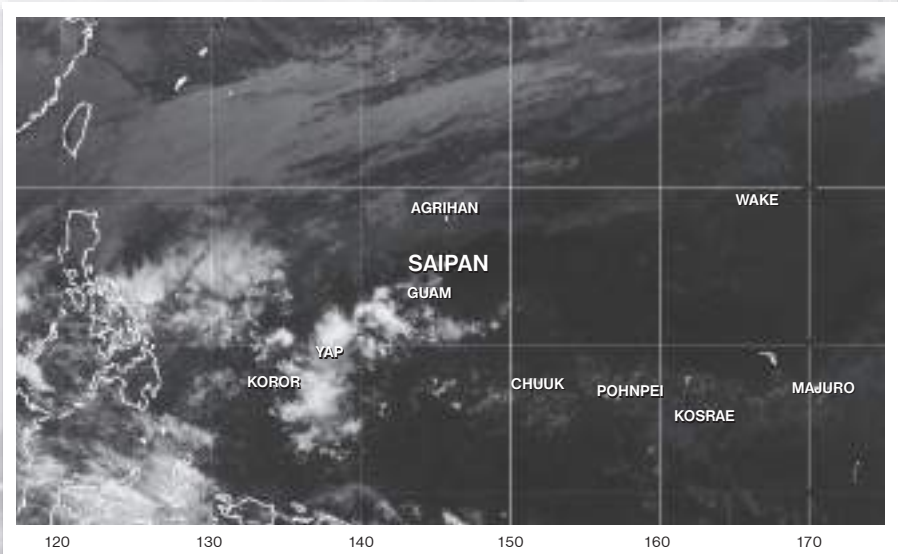
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 67
Beijing	Windy	▲ 31 ▼ 11
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 54
Honolulu	Rain	▲ 77 ▼ 72
London	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 47
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 76 ▼ 64
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 51
New York	Sunny	▲ 29 ▼ 14
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 39
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 46
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 22
Rome	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 44
Salem	Rain	▲ 53 ▼ 49
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 53
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 31 ▼ 11
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 47 ▼ 37
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 35 ▼ 23

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:50 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet	
8:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
2:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
9:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weakening shear line extends west-southwestward from near Wake Island at 20N165E to beyond 130E at 11N, west of 14N135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found northwest of Koror and Yap along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. Low-level convergent winds are causing similar weather between 9N and 11N from 130E to 133E. Otherwise, cloudiness and patchy rain are present along and up to 300 miles northwest of this shear line boundary. A surface trough extends southward from 10N142E to 3N139E. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are located just east of Yap along and within 180 miles west of the trough axis. Scattered showers are also found in convergent east winds south of Guam between 10N and 12N from 141E to 148E. Convergent east winds are producing scattered showers between 5N and 9N around Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro from 157E to 173E. A surface trough east of Majuro extends from 5N173E to 11N177E. Scattered showers associated with this system are located east of Majuro from 173E to the dateline between 7N and 12N.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:05 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:06 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:07 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:55 PM	1:14 AM
Saturday	1:42 PM	2:06 AM
Sunday	2:33 PM	3:01 AM
Monday	3:29 PM	3:58 AM
Tuesday	4:30 PM	4:55 AM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Navy to detonate unexploded ordnances in Marpi

An ordnance disposal team from Guam will be on Saipan on Jan. 21, 2011 to blow up unexploded ordnances that were collected in recent months and are currently being kept in a Marpi storage bunker.

The U.S. Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal Detachment

Marianas Guam will dispose of the unexploded ordnances at 1pm on Jan. 21, Friday. That involves a controlled detonation of the ordnances.

To ensure the safety of the public, the Department of Public Safety will close off the entire Marpi area from

the Last Command Post to the Bird Island lookout for the duration of this activity—from about 12pm to 2pm.

The only place that will remain open during the operation is the Suicide Cliff area for observation only. Access will be allowed through the Far East

Broadcasting road and the road behind the Marianas Country

Club Golf Course.

For more information, con-

tact the department at 664-9001 or 664-9022. **(DPS)**

22 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged 22 Saipan beach sites and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected sites include the Paupau Beach, Palms Resort, Plumeria Hotel, Aqua Resort Hotel, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge,

S. Puerto Rico Dump, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, Hyatt Regency, Fiesta Resort, Fiesta drainage, Samoa Housing, Hafa-Adai Hotel, Hafa-Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach Drainage, Sugar Dock, and Chalan Kanoa District 4 drainage.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations

were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan's coast on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

Fitial's special ass't for homeland security quits

Patrick Tenorio, the governor's special assistant for the Office of Homeland Security, quit his post yesterday for unknown reasons.

Fitial press secretary, Angel Demapan, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday Tenorio's departure from the administration.

To ensure that continuity in operations is upheld, Demapan said that Special Assistant for Administration Esther Fleming

has been temporarily delegated with the additional responsibility to serve as acting special assistant for homeland security.

Saipan Tribune learned that Tenorio tendered his resignation just before the holidays.

When asked about the reason of his resignation, Demapan said his office is not privy to reasons for personnel resignations.

"As a matter of policy, my office can only confirm the employment status of current and

former personnel. I do not have information pertaining to an employee's reason for resigning," added Demapan.

Tenorio began serving at the Office of Homeland Security since the beginning of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's first term.

The Fitial administration established the office to ensure the Commonwealth's preparedness and readiness to respond to emergency situations and cases. **(Moneth deposa)**



GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Japan Consul General for Guam Yoshiyuki Kimura, acting governor Eloy S. Inos, and Japan Consul General for the CNMI Tsutomu Higuchi share a light moment after Kimura paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the Governor on Jan. 11, 2011. Kimura extended his country's appreciation for the hospitality provided to Japanese tourists who visit the Northern Mariana Islands. Inos assured that the CNMI will continue to exert all efforts to assist its valued visitors.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Crime Stoppers seeks info on rape case

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a rape incident that occurred in Kagman on June 16, 2010. The victim, a juvenile female, said she was kidnapped and raped.

Further police investigation

led to the arrest of four local men. The men were charged but released due to insufficient evidence (legal matters).

The case is still ongoing and anyone with additional information that may help solve this case is urged to contact Crime

Stoppers.

Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. **(PR)**

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Free 1 hour use of Tennis Court, then afterward

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12"x12" \$0.79/pc • 8"x12" \$0.52/pc

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4"-\$0.55/pc
6"-\$0.65/pc
8"-\$0.75/pc

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2X4X14 - \$4.65	2X4X14 - \$6.50
2X4X16 - \$5.70	2X4X16 - \$7.70
2X4X18 - \$6.30	2X4X18 - \$8.70
2X4X20 - \$6.80	2X4X20 - \$9.60
2X6X12 - \$6.70	2X6X12 - \$7.90
2X6X14 - \$7.60	2X6X14 - \$11.00
2X6X16 - \$8.90	2X6X16 - \$10.30
2X6X18 - \$9.90	2X6X18 - \$14.50
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BMV supervisor pleads not guilty in driver's license scam

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A supervisor at the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles who was one of five persons indicted in federal court over an alleged driver's license scam pleaded not guilty to the charges yesterday.

BMV's Records and Firearms Section supervisor William A. Hocog was accompanied by his lawyer, Vicente Salas, at his initial court appearance.

Hocog pleaded not guilty to a count of conspiracy to unlawfully produce and transfer an identification document, four counts of unlawful production of an identification document, and four counts of unlawful transfer of an identification document.

U.S. District Court for the

NMI designated judge Michael W. Mosman set Hocog's jury trial for March 7, 2011, at 9am.

Mosman ordered the parties to file pretrial motions no later than Feb. 11, 2011.

Hocog was previously released on conditions set by the court on Dec. 15, 2010, after a criminal complaint was filed against him over the same incident.

This time, Mosman set Hocog's bail at \$25,000 unsecured bond. The judge also barred Hocog from having direct or indirect contact with his co-defendants and any BMV employee.

Mosman also ordered him to refrain from possessing a

firearm or other dangerous weapons.

Hocog's co-defendants are Mohammad Jahangir Miah, Tahira Dolores S. Miah, Hongmei Sun, and Hui Qiang Yan.

Except for Mohammad Miah, all defendants have already appeared in court after the indictment was filed against them on Monday. Mohammad Miah remains detained at the Department of Correction after his arrest in December.

Schuler stated in the indictment that from April 16 to June 18, 2010, Hocog and the four co-defendants conspired to unlawfully produce and transfer CNMI driver's licenses.

Sun and Yan introduced foreign nationals as driver's license applicants to the Miah couple in

order for the applicants to obtain a driver's license with the help of Hocog, a BMV employee.

Hocog used the information from the passport copy and driver's license application to have the necessary biometric information typed onto a BMV index card.

Hocog arranged for the applicant to sign the index card and take a driver's license photograph at the BMV, in order to subsequently produce the driver's license and transfer the license to the applicant at BMV.

Hocog allegedly produced and transferred at least three driver's licenses to three foreign nationals in exchange for money.

The applicants were each required to pay an amount be-

tween \$230 and \$400 directly to Sun or Yan in order to receive the driver's license.

Alleged resto burglar wanted for Tapochau condo burglary

A suspected burglar who claimed hitting the "jackpot" after breaking into an establishment in Garapan last year is being hunted again, this time for allegedly burglarizing a condominium along Mt. Tapochau Drive on Tuesday.

Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said yesterday that they are seeking the assistance of the community in locating Daniel Robert Johnny.

Blas said an arrest warrant has been issued for the 24-year-old Johnny for burglary, theft, and contempt.



Johnny

"The general public is advised not to approach Johnny, but to immediately report his whereabouts by calling DPS emergency line 911, or 664-9042, or calling the NMI Crime Stoppers Tips Line at 234-7272," Blas said.

He said that police had received a call on Tuesday at 8:59am about burglary and theft incident at the Coral Island Condominium.

Blas said a personal laptop and money were stolen in the incident.

Blas said follow-up investigation conducted by detective Buddy Igitol led to the identification of Johnny as the responsible person for the incident.

"Detectives have not located Johnny after visiting his last known address and other areas he frequented," he said.

In January 2010, police arrested Johnny after he was tagged as the person who had burglarized the Café de Colmar on Dec. 28, 2009. Police said that Johnny had told a "cooperating defendant" that he had hit the jackpot after stealing many items from the restaurant. It was not immediately clear if the case remains pending. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Feel the difference

COMMUNITY BRIEFS**Kagman High sets PTSA meeting**

The first PTSA meeting of Kagman High School for 2011 is set to begin at 6pm on Thursday, Jan. 20, in the cafeteria. Parents, guardians, students and school staff are encouraged to attend. Write to AniciaQT@gmail.com if you have any questions. (PR)

Former congressman Torres on Marianas Agupa

Tomorrow, Jan. 15, 2011, Marianas Agupa will feature William Torres, a former congressman and education commissioner, from 10am to 10:30am

on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be Article 12 issues as part of the economic revitalization of the CNMI economy.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will also feature former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola, and Tinian correspondent and former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

WIC Program closed for training

The CNMI WIC Program will be closed on the

following dates for Professional Development Training.

- Jan. 14, 2011 – 7:30am – 10:30am
- Jan. 21, 2011 – 7:30am – 10:30am
- Jan. 28, 2011 – 7:30am – 10:30am
- Feb. 4, 2011 – 7:30am – 10:30am

Hours of operation will resume at 10:30 am. Call the Clinic at 664-4084 or the Administration Office at 664-4067 for further inquiries. (PR)

Military training on Farallon today

The U.S. military will be conducting training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, Jan. 14, from 9am to 4pm. The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF marine channel 16, and HF single side band radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Celebrity bagging, health food demo on Saturday

The Cervical Cancer Awareness Month Committee invites the community to a Celebrity Bagging & Healthy Food Demonstration on Saturday, Jan. 15, at Super Fresh and Joeten, 3pm-5pm. Pick up some information about cervical cancer prevention and screening, sample a tasty and nutritious dish prepared by our NMC CREES partners, and get the recipe too!

For more information about Cervical Cancer Awareness activities this month, or to find out how you can get involved, contact Kim Sablan of the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. (PR)

NMC registration schedule

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's spring 2011 semester will be ongoing this week until Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011.

- Jan. 14: Registration for all new, ongoing, and readmitted students
 - Jan. 15: Late Registration
- English Placement Test Schedule:
- Jan. 14: 9am – 3pm Building M

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Isael Saito aka Typhoon! We wish you a year filled with the same joy you bring to others, with lots of love and blessings coming your way. Enjoy this special day because it only comes once a year, so party hearty and we love you, Tyty! From your favorite Numa Numas, friends and family.



Happy birthday, Terry L. Kisa! Enjoy your special day and may you have many more birthdays to come. You're looking younger each year that passes! Lots of love from your family and friends.



Advance happy 18th Birthday to Eileen "Gail" Echalse, who will celebrate her special day on Jan. 15 2011! May all your wishes come true. We love you and God bless! Greetings come from friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

All babies get their hearing tested shortly after birth. Ask if your baby passed the test. Track your baby's hearing by looking for these behaviors.

BY THREE MONTHS

- ☐ Turn eyes toward interesting sounds
- ☐ Smile when spoken to
- ☐ Stop to listen to speech sounds
- ☐ Cry differently for different needs

BY SIX MONTHS

- ☐ Turn his or her head in the direction of new sounds
- ☐ Babble a lot of different sounds
- ☐ Respond to his or her name
- ☐ Respond to changes in your tone of voice

If you have any concerns about your baby's hearing, schedule an appointment right away. Call 236-8709

Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.



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STOCK # 7S025464

\$11,995^{00*}



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STOCK # 5G156166

\$11,995^{00*}



2007 Honda Accord EXL
STOCK # 7A080362

\$18,995^{00*}



2001 Ford Crown Victoria
STOCK # 1X16270

\$7,995^{00*} (SOLD AS IS)



2006 Nissan Sentra SE
STOCK # 6L514169

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2005 Ford Mustang Coupe
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Coca-Cola awards 17 promo winners

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Coca-Cola's Open Happiness Holiday Giveaways promotion ended with the awarding of ex-

citing prizes to 17 lucky winners on Jan. 4. Group business manager

Glen D. Hunter, who led the awarding ceremony at the Transpacific Business Center,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of Coca-Cola's Open Happiness Holiday Giveaways promo gather for a group photo during the awarding ceremony at the Transpacific Business Center on Jan. 4.

thanked all those who supported the promotion.

"We would like to thank all of you for joining the promo and we look forward to your continued patronage of our products and promotions," he said.

Shen Aquiningoc became the promo's biggest winner after she received a shopping spree package worth \$1,000 in gift certificates from Joeten Enterprises.

"I am very happy I won. Thank you, Coca-Cola," said Aquiningoc.

Dandan resident Frances C. Muna, who won \$500 worth of gas certificates from Shell, said this was her second time to win a raffle prize. "With the gas prices going up now, this comes at the right time," she added.

Estrellita Salas of As Matuis was thrilled to win a PlayStation Portable for her children who have long been waiting for it.

Nora Antatico, another PSP winner, said she is eager to join

in more raffle promotions after winning a raffle draw for the first time.

Other major prize winners include Annie S. Castro who won an overnight stay at Pacific Islands Club with lunch and dinner for four; Imelda M. Santos, overnight stay at Saipan World Resort with lunch and dinner for four; Antonio Torres, one Nintendo Wii Sports; and James Yanget-mai and Gloria C. Reyes, who each won a PSP Gran Turismo.

Special prize winners of limited edition Coca-Cola premium items were Jesse Romualdo Achas, Rene Hidalgo, Mario Manguerra, Elizabeth Matsunaga, Carla San Nicolas, Lynda Toves, and Jesse Tudela.

The Open Happiness Holiday Giveaways promo ran from the last week of October until Dec. 30. Raffle draws were held on Nov. 23 and Dec. 30 at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe.



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INVITATION FOR BID NMHC IFB 2010-013

This ad is paid for with HUD funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **REHABILITATION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX GYMNASIUM** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning January 10, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for laborers, mechanics and all other employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as specified in CM20080001 for the Mariana Islands.

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 18, 2011**, at the Susupe Sports Complex Gymnasium project site in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB 2010-013**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 1, 2011**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 1, 2011 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than Tuesday, February 1, 2011 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than Tuesday, February 8, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, Wednesday, February 9, 2011. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Rehabilitation of the Susupe Sports Complex Gymnasium". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred fifty (150) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
NMHC Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply



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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Restroom Renovations and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011**, to the office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **three hundred sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 am, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOLOI
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: December 14, 2010

American Samoa governor proposes tax hikes

» Togiola hopes to avoid reducing work hours

PAGO PAGO, America Samoa (Samoa News/PIR)—Instead of reducing work hours or workdays for territorial government workers, Gov. Togiola Tulafono says he is proposing an increase in the local minimum income tax that would raise at least \$3 million—but still not enough to cover the expected shortfall in local government revenue collection.

However, the government's Treasurer, Magalei Logovi'i told a gathering yesterday afternoon with some 20 business representatives that the reduction of working hours for government workers goes into effect next week, at the start of a new pay period for the government.

Togiola's director of communication Jacinta Galeai told Samoa News yesterday afternoon that nothing has been issued affecting any reduction of hours.

"The Governor has not issued any memo on the reduction of [working] hours," Galeai said when asked for comments about Logovi'i's statement to the private sector. "Until the Governor issues a memo, nothing is in effect."

Logovi'i's meeting with the private sector was to explain that due to "a cash flow problem" in local revenues, a freeze has been placed on paying vendor invoices funded with local revenues.

Togiola implemented last month cost saving measures, saying that the government was facing a financial shortfall in local revenue and options being reviewed for the next phase for cost containment is reduc-

tion in work hours, work days or workforce, for government employees, whose salaries are funded by local revenues - but

not salaries funded by the federal government.

However, Togiola said over the weekend that while some

of that federal funding has been released, a drastic drop in local revenues has occurred, due to among other things, fewer im-

ported goods into the territory, which means the government could not collect enough on excise taxes.

Tonga telecommunications to go digital

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—Tonga has been chosen by the International Telecommunications Union, as one of five Asia-Pacific Region countries to receive assistance for the development of their roadmaps to migrate from analogue to digital broadcasting in television and radio.

The four other countries, all

from Asia are Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The Chief Executive Officer for the Ministry of Communication and Information, Paula Ma'u said on January 11 that they applied last year for the ITU's pilot program and were pleased to hear from them just before Christmas that Tonga was chosen as one of the pilot countries.

Paula said that ITU would start implementing the program in February, with the recruiting of experts to carry out a feasibility study, "assess our current situation, then identify our needs, equipment etc."

Paula said that the training of local operators was scheduled for March and May. He said that the actual migration should start this year, "and it

could take a few years to actually migrate from analogue to digital broadcasting."

Most broadcasters are switching to digital broadcasting because of lack of frequency space. Digital broadcasting uses digital data rather than analogue waveforms to carry broadcasts over television channels or assigned radio frequency bands.

Public employees in Solomons await full pay

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—Three days after the Finance Ministry promised they would pay public servants' their full salary, many public officers were still unhappy because not the full amount came through their accounts on Tuesday.

Public officers were promised they would be paid the remaining part of their full salaries Tuesday this week.

But yesterday a number of officers said they have yet to receive the rest of the amount to complete their full salary package.

The salary saga started off Thursday last week when public officers received just about 10 percent of their salary or more.

Some received only SB\$100 [US\$12] to SB\$40 [US\$5] in their account.

Finance Ministry Permanent Secretary Shadrach Fanega last

Friday said funds would be dispersed into bank accounts on Monday but nothing has happened until Tuesday.

Most of the public servants checked their account on Tuesday for the second payment but it was not the right amount to complete their full salary.

Some of the public servants said they tried calling the salary section by phone for an explanation in the salary cut but the phones were not answered.

A public servant yesterday who refused to be identified said that it was really frustrating to see heavy deductions to their salaries.

"When I check my bank account it was overdrawn by SB\$100 [US\$12], he said. We expected the full amount of our salaries this week but only received empty promises to our salaries."



RECOVERY SUMMIT

Members of the House of Representatives led by Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and business leaders gather for a group photo at the conclusion of the CNMI economic recovery summit on Wednesday in the House chamber on Capital Hill. Ranking first in the 11-point action plan is the passage of a \$6.2 million airlines incentive program that is expected to boost tourism from Osaka and Nagoya, Japan during so-called death valley periods.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



DONATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Willie Matsumoto, right, president of Pacific Eagle Enterprises, helps take care of the Peace Memorial Monument of the Taisho University Alumni Office at Sugar King Park. On behalf of this group, he donated \$500 to the Saipan Mayor's Office on Jan. 11, 2011, to be used for the purchase of maintenance equipment that will be used to clean the memorial monument at Sugar King Park. Matsumoto is shown here turning over the check donation to Saipan Mayor Donald Flores.

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Business

2 casinos add \$324M to Singapore's coffers

By ANDREA TAN
BLOOMBERG

Singapore's two casino resorts, run by Genting Singapore Plc and Las Vegas Sands Corp., contributed \$324 million in net revenue to the city-state in the April to November 2010 period.

The government's revenue from the two casinos will be placed in a consolidated fund, Second Finance Minister Lim Hwee Hua said in Parliament.

The two casinos helped Singapore's gross domestic product expand 14.7 percent in 2010, Senior

Minister of State for Trade and Industry S. Iswaran said on Jan. 10. Last year's economic growth probably made the city of 5 million people the fastest-growing economy in the world after Qatar, according to International Monetary Fund estimates.

The casinos opened in Singapore last year after a four-decade ban was lifted to help boost tourism revenue and shed what Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong called an "unexciting image." In 2002, Lee rejected a proposal for casinos, saying they could lead to "undesirable

activities" such as money laundering, illegal lending and organized crime.

A total of 31,316 Singaporeans were banned from the casinos under exclusion orders, Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, said in Parliament.

'Outstanding Results'

Genting's Resorts World Sentosa and Marina Bay Sands may post \$2.8 billion in casino revenue in 2010 and \$5.5 billion this year, the *Today* newspaper reported on Dec. 21, citing Pricewater-

houseCoopers LLP.

The "outstanding results" at the Marina Bay Sands contributed to Las Vegas Sands' third-quarter earnings, which topped analysts' estimates, Sands Chairman Sheldon Adelson said on Oct. 28.

Singapore's government in September stopped all bus shut-

tle services between local town centers and the casinos, saying promotional efforts should be confined to tourists. The Southeast Asian nation, which is planning to review its rules governing casinos, has also set up the Casino Crime Investigation Branch and a National Council on Problem Gambling.

"As both casinos have been operating for less than a year, it would be premature to draw a conclusion on the impact of the casinos on local problem gambling or the adequacy of our social safeguards," Balakrishnan said.

The government plans to stop the casinos from "asymmetric and unfair publicity" where their customers' gaming winnings are publicized on their websites, Balakrishnan said.

Fed survey: US economy ends 2010 on strong note

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy ended last year on an encouraging note, with all parts of the country showing improvements. Factories produced more, shoppers spent more and companies hired more—pointing to a stronger economy in 2011.

That's the picture that emerged from the Federal Reserve's survey of economic conditions released Wednesday.

Still, risks loom. Declining home prices and millions of foreclosures are depressing

housing markets around the country, the survey said.

Companies are also paying more for materials including oil, food products, steel, textiles and chemicals, the survey noted. However, competitive pressures prevented them from passing those increased costs on to customers in the form of higher prices.

And even though employers are slowly hiring more, workers lack bargaining power to win bigger paychecks because of high unemployment, which is now at 9.4 percent.

Price increases remain tame. The Fed will monitor inflation as it reviews its \$600 billion Treasury bond-buying program, which is intended to boost the economy by lowering interest rates, encouraging spending and lifting stock prices.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke says he is optimistic that the economy will strengthen this year. But he warned last week that it will take up to five years for unemployment to drop to a historically normal level of around 6 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

World Bank: China to drive Asian growth

BEIJING (AP)—China's rapid growth should slow to 8.5 percent this year from 10 percent in 2010 but the world's second-largest economy will remain the focus of Asia's expansion, the World Bank said Thursday. In a report on the global outlook, the bank said overall growth for developing Asian economies should ease to 8 percent from last year's 9.3 percent as exports moderate and governments rein in credit to cool inflation pressures. China's growth is easing as Beijing winds down its stimulus and tightens credit to cool inflation and surging housing prices, the bank said. Still, it said continued strong Chinese demand for raw materials and components should buoy ex-

ports by its Asian neighbors.

SKorean central bank raises rate to 2.75 percent

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's central bank unexpectedly raised its key interest rate Thursday for the second time in three months as it seeks to tame rising inflation amid a solid economic growth outlook. The Bank of Korea announced that it increased the benchmark seven-day repurchase rate to 2.75 percent from 2.5 percent at a monthly monetary policy meeting. The decision was a surprise. A total of 9 economists at 10 financial institutions surveyed by Yonhap Infomax, the financial news arm of Yonhap news agency, predicted the bank would freeze the rate at 2.5 percent.

Federal budget deficit narrows to \$80B in December

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal budget deficit narrowed slightly in December compared to a year ago, but the deficit for the entire year is still on pace to exceed \$1 trillion. The government ran a deficit of \$80 billion last month, down 12.4 percent from the previous December, the Treasury Department said Wednesday. Through the first three months of the current budget year, the deficit totals \$370.8 billion, an improvement of 3.1 percent from the same period a year ago. Private economists expect that the tax-cut package signed into law last month will lead to a much larger deficit while also helping to boost economic growth.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-11-016

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Office Supplies for the CUC Saipan, Tinian and Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-016, Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the goods, based on bids for "Commodity Groups"

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award per commodity group will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **Friday, January 14, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-11-017

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF WATER DIVISION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-017, Supply & Delivery of Water Division Annual Materials", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **February 4, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award per commodity group will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **Friday, January 28, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Robert Malate, Water Division Engineer via email rmalate@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Obama tells polarized nation: 'We can be better'

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Summoning the soul of a nation, President Barack Obama on Wednesday implored Americans to honor those slain and injured in the Arizona shootings by becoming better people, telling a polarized citizenry that it is time to talk with each other “in a way that heals, not in a way that wounds.” Following a hospital bedside visit with Rep.

In an electrifying moment, the president revealed that Giffords, who on Saturday was shot point-blank in the head, had opened her eyes for the first time shortly after his hospital visit. First lady Michelle Obama held hands with Giffords' husband, Mark Kelly, as the news brought soaring cheers from thousands gath-

"I believe we can be better," Obama said to a capacity crowd.




In crafting his comments, Obama clearly sought a turning point in the raw debate that has defined national politics. He faced the expectations to do more than console, but to encourage a new day of civility, all without getting overly political in a memorial service.

Glock handguns

A 9mm Glock semiautomatic was used in Tucson; Glockes were also used in the Atlanta, Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois Univ. shootings

1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011

The term “blood libel” is the false allegation that Jews kill non-Jews, especially Christian children, to acquire blood for the Passover or other Jewish rituals, according to the Jewish Virtual Library. It has been used in other contexts, and Palin’s meaning was not clear. Her aides did not immediately respond to an e-mail early Wednesday.



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INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-GOV-042

Renovation of the CNMI Public School System Rota High School Gymnasium

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, are soliciting sealed bids for the renovation of the CNMI Public School System Rota High School Gymnasium located at the high school site in Songsong Village, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (US \$25.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A MANDATORY one time site visit, pre-bid meeting will be held at the Rota High School gymnasium on Tuesday, January 25, 2011. Interested companies who do not attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting will be disqualified from the bidding process. Participants are required to meet promptly at the gymnasium entrance at 11:00 a.m. Questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m. time, Monday, January 31, 2011.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB11-GOV-042". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Monday, February 14, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time February 14, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 14, 2011 and must be received no later than February 24, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, February 28, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will open at 11:00 a.m. local time, on February 14, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, CNMI Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Winter storm buries southern New England

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The third winter storm in three weeks buried parts of the Northeast in more than 2 feet of wet, blowing snow Wednesday, smothering highways, halting trains and plunging thousands of homes and businesses into cold darkness.

The storm, which iced over much of the South before sweeping up the East Coast, wreaked havoc on transportation across New England.

In Massachusetts, Gov. Deval Patrick declared a state of emergency and mobilized the National Guard. He said the storm brought more snow and a wetter kind of snow than officials expected, leaving more than 100,000 people without power or heat by noon.

Maria Rivera, 60, slept overnight in a food court booth at a travel plaza where she works on the Massachusetts Turnpike in Natick. She said the person providing her ride home to Worcester could not make it in the storm, and she had to be back for her Wednesday shift.

"I have to work," she said. "I have to pay my bills."

In New York, where city leaders took heavy criticism for their slow work after a Dec.



A man walks a pack of dogs up a Beacon Hill street in Boston, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011.

26 blizzard, officials rolled out a massive response that quickly cleared the streets. They also received some help from nature, with only 9 inches of snow falling in Central Park—well short of 20 inches in last month's storm.

This time, the deepest snow fell farther north.

The roof of an apartment building in Norwich partially collapsed under the weight of the snow, forcing 10 people from their homes. State troopers, working double shifts on orders of the governor, responded

to about 900 spinouts, fender-benders and stranded vehicles.

By early afternoon, New Fairfield had 28 inches of snow, and Danbury had 24

inches. The 22.5 inches recorded at Bradley International Airport set a one-day record for snowfall in the Hartford area.

Sister of slain Las Vegas dancer curses defendant

NORTH LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—The sister of a slain Las Vegas dancer stood in a courtroom Wednesday and cursed the man accused of strangling her only sibling and covering her naked, dismembered body in concrete.

"I hope you (expletive) rot in jail, you (expletive) for what you did to her," Celeste Flores Narvaez screamed at defendant Jason Griffith after his arraignment on murder, battery domestic violence and destroying evidence charges.

Griffith, 32, did not enter a plea or respond to the outburst.

During the hearing, Griffith spoke only briefly to acknowledge he had reviewed the criminal complaint against him.

"Do you understand what you are being charged with?" asked Justice of the Peace

Chris Lee.

"Yes," responded Griffith, a performer at the Cirque du Soleil "Love" show at The Mirage resort-casino.

He was being held without bail and was ordered to return to court Feb. 15. He could face the death penalty if convicted of killing 31-year-old Debora Flores Narvaez.

Griffith's lawyer, Clark County Deputy Public Defender Abel Yanez, said his client would not speak to the district attorney's office or police without a lawyer present.

The courtroom outburst was an unusual public display of emotion for Celeste Flores Narvaez, who temporarily relocated from Atlanta to Las Vegas to oversee the search for her younger sister after the dancer was reported missing Dec. 14.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mom's boyfriend 'person of interest' in Texas case

COLORADO CITY, Texas (AP)—The mother of a missing 13-year-old West Texas girl on Wednesday denied having anything to do with her daughter's disappearance, while an official said the woman's boyfriend had been identified as a "person of interest" in the case. Middle school cheerleader Hailey Darlene Dunn was reported missing Dec. 28 in Colorado City, 200 miles west of Fort Worth, setting off a multicounty search involving the FBI and Texas Rangers. Court documents obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press include police affidavits that say Hailey's mother, Billie Dunn, has given contradictory statements and lied during a polygraph test that included questions about

her daughter's disappearance.

Prosecutor: Ex-CIA agent lied about militant past

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—A federal prosecutor told jurors Wednesday that an ex-CIA agent and nemesis of Fidel Castro "can do anything he wants to the Cuban regime" but broke federal law when he lied about it under oath while seeking American citizenship. During opening statements in the trial of Luis Posada Carriles, a defense attorney countered that the Cuban militant "substantially told the truth" at naturalization hearings in 2005 and that the government's case is built on an unreliable paid informant. Posada, who turns 83 next month, faces 11 counts of perjury, obstruction and naturalization fraud. He is accused of making false

statements during immigration interviews in 2005 in El Paso and about his role in a string of 1997 bombings that rocked Havana hotels and killed an Italian tourist.

Idaho woman claims \$190M Mega Millions prize

RATHDRUM, Idaho (AP)—A 29-year-old mother of two and former bank worker from northern Idaho has claimed the remaining half of a \$380 million Mega Millions jackpot, lottery officials and others said Wednesday. Holly Lahti, of the small town of Rathdrum, will split the second-largest lottery jackpot in history with Jim and Carolyn McCullar of Ephrata, Wash. The McCullars appeared at a news conference last Thursday to announce they'd won half

the jackpot, or \$190 million.

Protesters climb trees to save Calif. oak grove

ARCADIA, Calif. (AP)—With the sounds of bulldozers echoing beneath him, veteran tree sitter John Quigley perched in a century-old oak Wednesday, saying he won't come down until public works officials stop felling scores of trees as part of a dam improvement project. Quigley, who helped save a beloved oak with a similar sit-in eight years ago, was joined by a handful of other sitters who took up positions in branches overlooking 11 acres of picturesque foothills. "They're destroying trees all around us," Quigley said by cell phone as the sound of bulldozers below him could be heard. "It's a sad scene and definitely something that didn't need to happen."

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID
IFB-NMC-033**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 03, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"COMPUTER REPLACEMENT
PLAN FOR THE NORTHERN
MARIANAS COLLEGE"**

BID PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_computer_replacement@recovery.gov.mp.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD
/s/ LORRAINE T. CABRERA
INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID
IFB-NMC-034**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 03, 2011 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

**"CAMPUS WIDE COMPUTER
REPLACEMENT PLAN FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE"**

BID PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_video_surveillance@recovery.gov.mp.

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/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD
/s/ LORRAINE T. CABRERA
INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID
IFB-NMC-035**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 07, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF A VIDEO
SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM EQUIPMENT FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE"**

BID PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_video_surveillance@recovery.gov.mp.

A MANDATORY SITE INSPECTION AND PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M. IN THE NMC PROCUREMENT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 2ND FLOOR, BUILDING L.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD
/s/ LORRAINE T. CABRERA
INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PORTFOLIO/SECURITIES MONITORING SERVICES

SERVICES REQUIRED

The Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT), a public trust of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requests proposals from legal counsel(s) with significant experience and expertise in evaluating, monitoring and carrying out securities fraud litigation for public/private trust and/or pension plans. The monitoring, evaluation advice and counseling services would be offered at NO COST to MPLT.

Interested firms are asked to submit proposals outlining their ability to serve in the roles of monitoring, evaluation and litigation counsel.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The services requested will include but not limited to:

- Monitor MPLT's investments for any losses that may have occurred as a result of a violation or potential violation of securities laws or a breach of any duty owned to the Trust
- Provide legal research, analysis, advice and guidance with respect to securities law;
- Provide MPLT with securities monitoring and administration services that will provide MPLT with expert legal advice and litigation-related services;
- Be responsive on a "as needed" basis to confer with and provide recommendations to MPLT regarding case status, strategies, and potential settlement or other resolution of cases

PACKAGES & SUBMITTAL DATE

One original and Five copies of the sealed clearly marked "Portfolio Monitoring Services Proposal" RFP 11-01, shall be submitted to the attention of Mr. Phillip Mendiola-Long, MPLT Chairman, P.O. Box 501089, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 P.M., Monday, January 31, 2011.

If there are any questions relative to this notice, interested parties are asked to contact Ms. Barbara Reyes during the hours stated above. The RFP is also available online at www.mplt.gov.mp.

PHILLIP MENDIOLA-LONG

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Rehabilitation Council**

PO Box 506296 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY '11 First General Membership on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at the Azucena I, Fiesta Resort and Spa at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Review and adoption of Agenda
- Review and adoption of the FY'10 4th Meeting Minutes (09/15/10)
- Reports
 - OVN Director
 - SRC Chair
- Election of Officers: Chair, Fiscal Officer, & Secretary
- Approval of 2011 Resource Plan
- Consumer Forum
- Announcements
- Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Jesus M. Elameto
CHAIRMAN

Asia

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—Floodwaters washing through Australia's third-largest city crested Thursday just shy of record levels but high enough to submerge entire neighborhoods and cause damage one official likened to the aftermath of war.

One man died in Brisbane after being sucked into a storm drain by the muddy waters, Queensland state Premier Anna Bligh said. Thousands of homes were swamped, and officials told residents it will be days before many of them can return to their houses. Others were told their homes will never be habitable again.

In one spot of bright news, the swollen Brisbane River's peak was about three feet (one meter) lower than predicted, at a depth slightly below that of

Australia rebuilding task 'of postwar proportions'

1974 floods that swept the city. The river had already begun to recede by Thursday afternoon, though it was expected to stay high for several days.

Waters in some areas had reached the tops of roofs, shut

down roads and power, and devastated entire neighborhoods. Mayor Campbell Newman said 11,900 homes and 2,500 businesses had been completely inundated, with another 14,700 houses and 2,500 businesses at

least partially covered in water. "Queensland is reeling this morning from the worst natural disaster in our history and possibly in the history of our nation," Bligh told reporters. "We've seen three-quarters of our state

having experienced the devastation of raging floodwaters and we now face a reconstruction task of postwar proportions."

The flooding, which has killed 25 people since late November, has submerged dozens of

towns—some three times—and left an area the size of Germany and France combined under water. Highways and rail lines have been washed away in the disaster, which is shaping up to be Australia's costliest, with early damage estimates around \$5 billion.

At least 61 people are missing, and the death toll is expected to rise. Many of those unaccounted for disappeared from around Toowoomba, a city west of Brisbane that saw massive flash floods on Monday sweep away cars, road signs and people. Fourteen died in that flood alone, with police finding the bodies of two of those people on Thursday. Deputy Police Commissioner Ian Stewart warned that number was likely to rise as search and rescue teams accessed more devastated areas Thursday.



ASIAN BRIEFS

18 die in floods, mudslides in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's government says five more people have died in widespread floods and mudslides, pushing the death toll to 18 from days of heavy rains. The Disaster Management Center says nearly 200,000 people, mostly

in Eastern Province, have lost their homes because of the flooding. Most are now living in camps. It says most of dead either drowned or were buried in mudslides. Schools in several affected provinces remain closed. President Mahinda Rajapaksa was forced to abandon a trip Wednesday to survey the flood damage because of the

bad weather.

Attacks in Afghanistan kill 5 NATO troops

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A spate of attacks against Afghanistan's intelligence service and international forces killed at least nine people, including five NATO troops, on Wednesday in a violent testament to the

tenuous nature of gains made against the virulent insurgency. The strikes, including a suicide motorbike bombing in the relatively calm Afghan capital, came just as Vice President Joe Biden was leaving the country after a visit during which he praised advances against the militants while acknowledging they are "fragile and reversible."



Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188 • Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacific.net • Web: <http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net>

IMMEDIATE JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ACCOUNTANT

Mount Carmel School, a Catholic 1st through 12 grades is accepting applications for the position of Accountant. Mount Carmel School enrolls over 300 students with over 20 professional faculty and staff, and is fully accredited by the Western Accreditation of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Applicants for the position will assume the responsibility of an Accountant situated at the Business Office of the school, assist in the day to day operation of the Business Office, and other business transactions of the Business Office as assigned.

Pay Level/Step: V Step 01-05

Per Annum: \$17,000.00-\$19,133.65

Minimum Requirement: Graduation from accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree preferably in Accounting.

Closing Date: Until Filled

Interested applicants may obtain a detailed job description with qualification requirements and application forms at Mount Carmel School Business Office from 8:00 -11:00 a.m. and 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Application forms can also be downloaded from the school's website at <http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net> Required documents must be attached to complete application forms (1) Official copy of diploma/degree or Official transcripts, (2) FBI Clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made or an employment contract is signed), (3) police clearance (from jurisdiction of residence within the last three months), (4) resume. Completed applications and required documents may be submitted to Mount Carmel School Attn: Margaret C. Delacruz, President, P. O. Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950, telephone number (670) 235-1201/3187. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Since 1952, continuing a tradition of Faith, Excellence, and Success.

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges



Northern Marianas College

PRESIDENT

Updated Dec. 23, 2010

The Northern Marianas College is currently accepting applications for the position of President. The President of the Northern Marianas College serves as the chief executive officer for the Board of Regents and oversees a multi-campus college system located in three separate islands (Saipan, main campus; Rota and Tinian). The President will report to the Board of Regents and will be expected to carry out the mission of the College:

The mission of Northern Marianas College shall be to provide the best quality and meaningful post secondary and adult educational opportunities for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the individual and for the Commonwealth as a whole. The College shall be responsible for providing education in the areas of adult and continuing education, post secondary and adult vocational education and professional development for the people of the Commonwealth.

Minimum Qualifications:

Master's degree from a U.S. accredited university plus five (5) years of executive level management experience in an institution of higher education or other relevant organization, or a combination of at least five (5) years of executive level management including post-secondary education teaching experience; experience working in a multicultural environment; experience in accreditation process, personnel management, budget development and presentation, strategic planning, and institutional assessment, fundraising, mediation, and team building; and knowledge of federal programs and grants application in higher education.

Preference will be given to applicants that meet or exceed the following:

1. Doctoral degree holders in education administration or related fields from a US accredited institution (other terminal degree holders will be considered); and
2. Five years or more experience in an executive position in higher education administration or related fields; and
3. Three years or more of teaching experience in postsecondary education; and
4. Knowledge of technology used in higher education; and
5. Considerable experience with Asia-Pacific island cultures.

The salary for the position is \$80,000 per annum plus benefits. Applications will be reviewed immediately. Applicants with non-U.S. degrees are responsible for providing an official evaluation of their degrees to determine U.S. equivalency.

Applicants should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and references. **The target date for applications is January 15, 2011** - Please submit application immediately. Complete application packages and documents may be sent electronically to searches@acct.org and a paper copy must also be mailed to:

Dr. Narcisa Polonio, Vice President
Association of Community Colleges Trustees
1233 20th Street, NW, Suite 301
Washington, DC 20036

For additional information, nominations or confidential inquiries contact Dr. Narcisa Polonio, ACCT, Vice President for Education, Research and Board Leadership Services, 202-276-1983 (mobile) or npolonio@acct.org

For more information about this position and about NMC, visit www.nmcnet.edu or www.acct.org

World

Torrential rain, mudslides in Brazil kill 257

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Summer rains sent tons of red mud and torrents of water rushing down mountainsides in towns outside Rio, enveloping homes of rich and poor alike and killing at least 257 people in 24 hours. Some survivors clung to trees to escape the water and landslides.

Rescuers used heavy machinery, shovels and bare hands to dig through debris in a search for survivors Wednesday. It was not immediately clear how many people were rescued. At least 50 remained missing, and officials feared that figure would rise.

In Teresopolis, a town 40 miles (65 kilometers) north of Rio, the rain overflowed creeks and flash floods swept over already water-logged mountainsides. Brick and wooden shacks built on hillsides stripped of

trees, washed away in surging earth and water, leaving behind only a long trail of rusty red mud.

Heavy rains and mudslides kill hundreds of people across Brazil each year. Especially punished are the poor, whose rickety homes are often built on steep inclines with little in the way of foundations.

At least 130 people died in Teresopolis, the local Civil Defense agency said. The mountains saw 10 inches (26 centimeters) of rain fall in less than 24 hours.

Floodwaters continued to gush down the mountains Wednesday, though the rainstorm had ended. Survivors waded through waist-high water, carrying what belongings they could, trying to reach higher ground. Many tried desperately to find relatives, though phone service



Cars sit in debris in a flooded street in Teresopolis, Rio de Janeiro state, Brazil, Wednesday Jan. 12, 2011.

AP

Haiti mourns quake dead, finds hope in its resiliency

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The air was choked with memory Wednesday in this city where everyone lost a brother, a child, a cousin or a friend. One year after the earthquake, Haitians marched down empty, rubble-lined streets singing hymns and climbed broken buildings to hang wreaths of flowers.

The landscape is much as the quake left it, thanks to a reconstruction effort that has yet to begin addressing the intense need. But the voices were filled with hope for having survived a year that seemed to get worse at every turn.

"We've had an earthquake, hurricane, cholera, but we are still here, and we are still together," said Charlemagne Sintia, 19, who joined other mourners at a soccer stadium that served as an open-air morgue after the quake and later housed a tent camp.

Thousands gathered around the city to be with loved ones and pray. They flocked to the ruins of the once-towering national cathedral, to the soccer stadium, to parks, hillsides and the neighborhood centers.

Businesses were closed.

Instead of traffic, streets were filled with people dressed in white, the color of prayer and mourning. They waved their hands, cheered and called out to God as they wound down roads beset by ruins. Astride the unrepaired buildings are camps where an estimated 1 million people still live, unable to afford new homes.

"God blessed me by taking only one of my cousins that day. Our house collapsed but we have health and life," said Terez Benitot, a 56-year-old woman whose husband, a mason, can not find work amid a reconstruction all are waiting to begin.

The magnitude 7.0 earthquake ripped the ground open at 4:53 p.m. Jan. 12, 2010. The government raised its death toll estimate Wednesday to more than 316,000, but it did not explain how it arrived at that number.

The earthquake exploded in a previously undiscovered fault, just 8.1 miles below the surface and 15 miles west of Port-au-Prince, the capital and home to a third of the country's population.

was out in the region and many people were still missing hours after the rain stopped.

"There are so many disappeared—and so many that will probably never be found," said Angela Marina de Carvalho Silva, who believes she may have lost 15 relatives to the flood, including five nieces and nephews.

"There was nothing we could

do. It was hell," she said in a telephone interview.

Carvalho Silva took refuge in a neighbor's house on high ground with her husband and daughter, and watched the torrential rain carry away cars, tree branches and animals and tear apart the homes of friends and family.

"It's over. There's nothing. The water came down and swept everything away," said

her husband, Sidney Silva.

In the neighboring mountain town of Nova Friburgo, at least 107 people died, according to an e-mailed statement from the Rio state Civil Defense department. Among the dead were four firefighters who were helping in the rescue effort. Three other firefighters were listed as missing after their fire truck was hit by a mudslide.

With the new disasters, more than 300 people have died since Christmas across the southeastern portion Brazil.

President Dilma Rousseff signed a measure Wednesday sending \$461 million to towns in Rio and Sao Paulo states that were damaged during the recent rains. The money will go to repairing infrastructure and preventing future disasters.

Activist in women of Juarez cases slain in Mexico

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico (AP)—In the end, she became one of the women of Juarez for whom she sought justice.

Susana Chavez, a 36-year-old poet and activist who adopted the slogan "Not One More Death," was found strangled, mutilated and dumped on a street in this border city infamous for a series of murders of women—even before drug violence made it one of the most violent places in the world.

She befriended three teenagers, who authorities say invited her home to drink with them, then killed her in an argument and cut off her hand to

make it look like an execution.

The three suspects, who are in custody, told authorities they are members of the local drug gang Azteca and became enraged when Chavez told them she was a police officer and was going to report them, according to a statement from the state Attorney General's Office.

Her body was found last week but not identified until Tuesday, authorities said Wednesday.

"What's strange is that we're fighting to eliminate femicide in Juarez and, look, she died that way, in the hands of criminals," said her friend,

Linda Meza.

Chavez was a well-known artist in the city across from El Paso, Texas, a prominent member of the group May Our Daughters Return Home, comprised of family members and friends of the slain Juarez women and girls. Her only book, "Song to a City in the Desert," grew from a cry from the heart against violence, she wrote, and included the poem "Blood," written from the perspective of a victim.

Her murder was condemned Wednesday by international and Mexican human rights groups, as well as the presi-

dent of Mexico's lower house of Congress, Jorge Carlos Ramirez Marin, who called on his fellow legislators to honor her memory.

"Susana was a noble woman committed to the cause and to her city, which she loved with all of her being," said Gustavo de la Rosa Hickerson of the Human Rights Commission in Chihuahua state, where Ciudad Juarez is located.

The killing was the result of an "unfortunate encounter" and had nothing to do with Chavez's activism, said Chihuahua state Attorney General Carlos Manuel Salas.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cuba calls immigration talks with US 'fruitful'

HAVANA (AP)—Senior U.S. and Cuban diplomats met Wednesday to discuss immigration issues amid tensions over the long detention of an American man on suspicion of spying. While the Cuban side described the talks as fruitful and respectful, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley

was less effusive. He noted the U.S. delegation again raised the issue of Alan Gross, a U.S. government subcontractor held by Cuba without charge since Dec. 3, 2009. As for immigration, Crowley said in written comments sent from Washington that the two sides discussed areas of positive cooperation, as well as other issues "where there have been obstacles." He gave no details.

Army will 'retaliate' in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Security forces loyal to the sitting president who is refusing to cede power have imposed a curfew and descended on an opposition neighborhood, sending in a convoy of military trucks after two days of clashes. The head of the army, Philippe Mangou, read a declaration on state television

on Wednesday warning that attacks by opposition supporters on their men amounted to "acts of war" and that this has given them the right to retaliate. Mangou remains loyal to incumbent Laurent Gbagbo, who has not stepped down despite having lost the recent election. Mangou warned human rights groups and the international community that any upcoming operations are be-

ing done in self-defense.

Dutch government enforcing taxes on prostitution

AMSTERDAM (AP)—Workers in the world's oldest profession are about to get a lesson in the harsh reality of Europe's new age of austerity. The Dutch government has warned prostitutes who advertise their wares in

the famed windows of Amsterdam's red light district to expect a business-only visit from the taxman. Prostitution has flourished in Amsterdam since the 1600s, when the Netherlands was a major naval power and sailors swaggered into the port looking for a good time. The country legalized the practice a decade ago, but authorities are only now getting around to looking to sex workers for taxes.

Off The Wall

Latest German animal star is a cross-eyed opossum

By **MELISSA EDDY**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN (AP)—Heidi, the cross-eyed opossum, is the latest creature to rocket from Germany’s front pages to international recognition, capturing the world’s imagination with her bright, black eyes turned toward her pointed pink nose.

Since the first photos were published in December, the

marsupial from Leipzig Zoo has attracted more Facebook fans than Chancellor Angela Merkel. By Wednesday more than 111,000 fans from as far away as Bangkok and Montreal and clear across Europe were exclaiming “so cute!!” and “so sweet.”

Experts say that like Knut, Berlin’s famous fluffy white polar cub who was abandoned by his mother, and Paul, the

late octopus who correctly predicted the outcome of all of Germany’s 2010 World Cup games and Spain’s victory in the final, the hype surrounding Heidi is fed by a human weakness for cuddly looking critters and the ability of modern mass media to spread images around the globe instantly.

Bangkok resident Julie Queen-Vichitthanaruk said she heard about Heidi on the local radio station on the way to work, and raced home to find a picture on the Internet and become a “fan” on Facebook.

“Right away when I saw her picture, I feel in love with her!” the 40-year-old told The Associated Press in a Facebook message. “There is just something so sweet about her that made my heart melt.”

It is exactly that feeling that humans crave, making such “cute” animal images so popular. “It triggers a reaction in our unconsciousness, when we see these creatures that make us think of children,” said Peter Walschburger, a biological psychologist at Berlin’s Free University.

Media expert Steffen Damm said it is not only the cuddly crowd, but aspects including “bizarre/slimy,” seen in Paul, or “wacky,” like Heidi’s crossed eyes, that pique interest.

“Animals are so innocent—in a way that we no longer are,” Damm said. “They remind us of our lost connection to nature.”

Leipzig Zoo insisted the “media resonance was surprising and not planned,” but it has nevertheless moved to protect the rights



AP
In this Dec. 15, 2010 file photo, a cross-eyed opossum (didelphis) called Heidi sits in her interim enclosure, in the zoo in Leipzig, Germany.

to her name and cross-eyed image—believed to be the result of pressure on her eyes created by fatty deposits. The zoo says the squint doesn’t hurt her.

Heidi first attracted attention after a local TV report about her upcoming home—a new nocturnal enclosure in the tropical environment—featured her as one of several animals in quarantine until it opens July 1. She will share her enclosure with her sister Naira and their male companion, Teddy. All three arrived at Leipzig Zoo on May 5, 2010.

“She definitively won’t be Germany’s next Super Opossum,” zookeeper Michael Eisner told MDR television, as Heidi squinted up at him from a cage for a documentary about the zoo in December.

He couldn’t have been more wrong.

The clip attracted so much

attention on the Internet, the station has developed 10 episodes featuring Heidi and a local stuffed animal manufacture, Koesen, has adapted its line of plush opossums to include a white one with black ears and, of course, crossed-eyes.

While Leipzig Zoo says it is not actively engaging in marketing at this time, the attention will most certainly boost admittance, and thus revenue.

The Berlin Zoo recorded a 27 percent jump in 2007, the first year of polar bear cub, Knut, whose image as a playful cotton-puff ball of bear fuzz captured hearts around the world. That included U.S. star photographer Annie Liebowitz, who snapped him for an environment issue of Vanity Fair. The attention brought nearly euro6.8 million (then \$10.7 million) in revenue.

Some animal rights activists, however, maintain the attention

is a further form of abuse of animals that are already suffering from their captivity.

“These animals are put on show for millions of people, but afterward they remain incurably crippled,” said Edmund Haferbeck, an animal expert with Germany’s branch of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

He said he could not name a case where animals benefited from the hype created by the media attention—including Knut, whom he said still languishes in an enclosure much too small for him.

“On the contrary, it is completely counterproductive,” Haferbeck said. “The money they generate is not put toward improving the zoo, but go into their (strapped) budgets.”

Not every animal is able to generate such interest. Nuremberg zoo, in southern Germany sought to create attention similar to that generated by Knut when it found itself with a polar cub of its own, Flocke, born in December 2007. But she never really created hype.

Nor did another polar cub, Willbaer, or an attempt by the Chemnitz Zoo during the 2006 World Cup to have its animals predict the outcome of games—attributed to elements of timing, how an animal’s particular story or affliction is able to hit the public’s nerve at any given moment, a pattern known to humans for centuries.

“It recalls ancient Rome, where exotic species were applauded in the Circus Maximus,” said Damm.

Idaho woman has 1/11/11 baby at 11:11 a.m.

MERIDIAN, Idaho (AP)—Tyler Ashton Marx’s lucky number is going to be one, or 11, or maybe both. The son of Jared and Leslie Marx was born at 11:11 a.m. on Jan. 11, 2011, at St. Luke’s Meridian Medical Center in Meridian, Idaho. Jared Marx is serving in Iraq and watched his son’s birth over the Internet. Leslie Marx tells KTVB-TV that Tyler was born just as the clock switched to 11:11 a.m. But Tyler Marx isn’t the only one in the family with a memorable birthday. His older sister was born on Sept. 9, 2009 - 9/9/09. A Minnesota couple’s daughter was born Tuesday with one less one. Amy Zeller and Codjo Mensah welcomed Flora Mensah to the world at 1:11 a.m.

Fla. suspect’s wife sees photo on TV, calls police

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP)—Authorities south of Tampa say a man confessed to robbing a bank after his wife saw a surveillance photo on the evening news and alerted them. A camera got a clear shot of the man with a pony tail and scruffy beard robbing the First Bank in Bradenton on Tuesday. The robber got away. But Manatee County Sheriff’s officials got a break Tuesday evening when Afra Sandifar saw a news report about the robbery. She called authorities and told them her husband was the robber. That’s when 45-year-old Troy Sandifar fled the couple’s apartment. Deputies stopped his vehicle but Troy Sandifar refused to get out. They say he ingested what appeared to be drugs before they were able to arrest him. He was taken to the hospital, where authorities say he confessed.

Okla. boy rescued after tongue gets stuck on pole

WOODWARD, Okla. (AP)—In a scene straight from the movie “A Christmas Story,” an 8-year-old Oklahoma boy got his tongue stuck to a metal pole after he licked it on a dare. Officials say when rescue crews arrived Tuesday morning, the boy was standing on his tiptoes, trying to wriggle his frozen tongue free from a stop sign pole across the street from Woodward Middle School. Paramedics were able to help the boy by pouring water on his tongue. Once free, the boy told officials he got stuck after his brother dared him to lick the pole. The boy was taken to a Woodward hospital for treatment. The scene was similar to one in “A Christmas Story,” a 1983 movie adapted from Jean Shepard’s memoir of a boy in the 1940s.

Police: Drunken burglar gets stuck inside house

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Police in Delaware say a man broke into a house, got drunk and couldn’t make his way back outside—so he called 911 for help. New Castle County police say 44-year-old John Finch was trapped in the home in part because he’d broken into it before, back in April. That led the homeowner to change the locks so that a key was required - even inside. Police say no one was home when Finch broke in again, through a rear window. He stayed for a few days, drinking three bottles of gin and two bottles of whiskey. When he tried to leave, he was too drunk to climb back out of the window and called 911. He was arrested Wednesday afternoon. Finch now faces charges in both break-ins. Police say he was admitted to a hospital and has yet to make a court appearance. There’s no indication Finch has retained an attorney.

Police in Phoenix looking for ‘\$60 Bill Bandit’

GILBERT, Ariz. (AP)—Police in the Phoenix area are looking for a bank robbery suspect they’ve dubbed the “\$60 Bill Bandit” because he once asked a teller for \$40 and \$60 bills—denominations that aren’t printed. KTVK-TV reports the robber is wanted in connection with four bank robberies in four cities since October. The most recent holdup was Dec. 23 when the suspect walked into a Gilbert Bank of America and handed the teller a note saying he was armed and wanted money. The teller gave him an unknown amount of cash. Police say the nickname comes from the robber earlier asking a teller for all the \$20s, \$40s and \$60s.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 11-009

Opening Date: January 11, 2011
Closing Date: January 31, 2011

ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or designee. Plans layout of pole lines and underground cable and solves problems such as determining height, location, spacing, guying and insulating of poles; Computes sag and stress specifications on wire and cable; Makes complex electrical computations to determine type and arrangement of circuits and size, type and number of pieces of equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, switches, capacitors and lightning arresters; Prepares specifications and estimates costs; lays out substations and overhead and underground lines; Plans construction and coordinates operation of facilities for transmitting power from distribution points to customers; Reviews trouble calls in order to plan improvements to the distribution system; develops and implements a preventive maintenance program for the distribution system; Manages the integration of renewable energy generation into existing power systems; Manages installation of net metering and other smart grid applications; negotiates service agreements and manages associated costs and revenues; Checks site and ground conditions for the installation of renewable technologies such as wind turbines or solar panels. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: POWER (Distribution) Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA.
Salary: **\$36,000 to \$60,000 per year, Un-graded, Un-classified.** (Plus relocation costs to be determined by CUC if hired from outside the NMI. Also, note that the NMI has a more advantageous income tax system than other parts of the U.S.)

Positions: Two.
Contract: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering or other program related to power distribution. Three years experience directly related to electrical power distribution systems. Applicant with a Master’s Degree is preferred. **Knowledge of:** REA standards; Mathematics; Physics; Mechanics; Computer-aided drafting and testing software; Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. **Skill in:** Communication and problem-solving Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. local time of the closing date.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Job Vacancy Announcement

JVA No. 11-010

Opening Date: January 11, 2011
Closing Date: January 31, 2011

SENIOR ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the division manager or designee. Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities. Plans layout of pole lines and underground cable and solves problems such as determining height, location, spacing, guying and insulating of poles; Computes sag and stress specifications on wire and cable; Makes complex electrical computations to determine type and arrangement of circuits and size, type and number of pieces of equipment, such as transformers, circuit breakers, switches, capacitors and lightning arresters; Prepares specifications and estimates costs; lays out substations and overhead and underground lines; Plans construction and coordinates operation of facilities for transmitting power from distribution points to customers; Reviews trouble calls in order to plan improvements to the distribution system; develops and implements a preventive maintenance program for the distribution system; Manages the integration of renewable energy generation into existing power systems; Manages installation of net metering and other smart grid applications; negotiates service agreements and manages associated costs and revenues; Checks site and ground conditions for the installation of renewable technologies such as wind turbines or solar panels. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

Location: POWER (Distribution) Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA.
Salary: **\$75,000 to \$90,000 per year, un-graded, un-classified.** (Plus relocation costs to be determined by CUC if hired from outside the NMI. Also, note that the NMI has a more advantageous income tax system than other parts of the U.S.)

Positions: Two.
Contract: Two-year.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering or other program related to power distribution. Four years of progressively responsible engineering experience directly related to power distribution systems. Must be a licensed Professional Engineer (PE) from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicant with a Master’s Degree is preferred. **Knowledge of:** REA standards; Mathematics; Physics; Mechanics; Computer-aided drafting and testing software; Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. **Skill in:** Communication and problem-solving; Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. local time of the closing date.

Science & Technology

Turn your photo into a work of art

By NOAH MATTHEWS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The creator of FotoSketcher, an otherwise free program for Windows PCs, would appreciate enough of a donation so he can afford a cup of coffee. A

few cookies would be nice, too, he hints. However, if you have either Photoshop or Photoshop Elements, the gold and silver standards of photo-editing software, you might want to skip this column and the cup

of coffee.

FotoSketcher does what a component of those pricey programs do. So why was I attracted to this free program? True, it lets you transform an ordinary photo into a watercolor, pen and ink sketch and a dozens of other stylized ways

to do beautiful things with your photos. But what I really like is the way it draws, pixilates paints and creates a dozen other stylistic alterations right before your eyes. While Photoshop instantly transforms your photo into a stylized masterpiece, Fo-

toSketcher takes its merry old time transforming your photo, one layer at a time, one color at a time. It's as if you had commissioned an artist to paint your photo—someone who doesn't mind you looking over his shoulder as he does his work.

STUMP THE GEEKS

Windows Vista challenges user's authority

By ANNE KRISHNAN
THE NEWS & OBSERVER

QUESTION: I have a Dell PC with Microsoft Windows Vista as the operating system. Whenever I try to install a program, I get this message: "The system administrator has set policies to prevent this installation." When I attempt to uninstall programs, I get "You do not have sufficient access to uninstall (insert program here). Please contact your system administrator."

I am the system administrator; I intentionally did not set an administrator password so I wouldn't have to remember one. Any ideas on how to solve this issue?—W.B., Raleigh, N.C.

ANSWER: Starting with Vista, Microsoft set up Windows so that even though you are the administrator, you are treated as a standard user in certain situations until you verify you want

to use your admin privileges.

The goal is to provide an extra layer of security to prevent you from unintentionally installing malware.

To verify that you want to use your admin privileges, right-click on the installation file and choose "Run as administrator."

Another option is to turn off the User Account Control feature while you're installing or uninstalling your program. Microsoft strongly suggests that you turn it back on when you're finished.

Howtogeek.com describes a simple process to disable the User Account Control. Start by opening the control panel and typing "UAC" in the search box. Click on the link for "Turn User Account Control (UAC) on or off." On the next screen, uncheck the box for "Use User Account Control (UAC) to help protect your computer" and click "OK." Reboot your computer for the changes to take effect.

The case of the disappearing Gmail photos

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I've been using Google's free Gmail service to send photos inside an e-mail rather than as attachments. But a month ago, the photos stopped being sent. My friends received e-mails from me that had a red X where the photo should have been. My "sent" e-mail looks the same. Is this a Google issue, or is it something I caused on my PC?—Ed Kelson, Sahuarita, Ariz.

ANSWER: It could be both. Google says that it is "aware of an issue where users are having problems forwarding messages" that contain photos in the body of the message. For now, Google suggests you try changing the e-mail subject line.

But there's also an intentional Google limitation on sending some images. While Gmail allows you to send photos from

your PC without interference, it draws the line at a Web page image inserted into an e-mail. As part of Google's protection against junk e-mail, or spam, your friends using Gmail won't be able to see the Web image displayed in the body of the e-mail. To see it, they must use the "display images below" or "always display images from ... commands. See <http://tinyurl.com/48lopew>. If your friends use other e-mail systems, they may not encounter this problem.

In addition, you should check your Gmail formatting settings to make sure nothing's amiss. To include photos in the body of an e-mail, you must enable "rich formatting mode." Make sure you didn't accidentally switch to "plain text" by clicking it in the "compose" toolbar. If you did, click "rich formatting" in the toolbar to switch back.





In Humble Gratitude
We, the family of the late

Manuel Sablan Ada

Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers at the daily masses, nightly rosaries and most especially at the mass of Christian burial were very comforting. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

Thank You yan Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

Primet Kumpleanos Finatai

Prudenciana Hocog Santos Agulto

Konrespeto, hame ni famaguon I difunta mansen magof in konbida todos familia, parientes, yan man atungo, para I Primet Kumpleanos finatai I guiaayon na nanan mame as PRUDENCIANA HOCOG SANTOS AGULTO.

I misa para uma ofrese kada oga'an guato gi gima Yu'us San Jose, Oleai desde Huebes Eneru 13 asta Bietnes Eneru 21, fuera I Damenggo Eneru 16 I misa para gi oran alas 7:30 gi oga'an.

I lisayo para umatucha kada puenge gi oran alas Siette guato fi gima I difunta giya Chalan Kanoa Distritu Dos.

Gi uttimo na ha'ane Bietnes, Eneru Dia 21-I misa para uma celebra gi oran alas Sais gi oga'an gi gima Yu'us San Jose, Oleai, I finakpo lisayo para gi oran alas 7:00 gi pupenge gi gima I familia. I Finaton miyo yan I Tinayuyut miyo, en Sen Agradese.

Ginen I Famaguon



Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the Late



†Natividad DLGuerrero Tudela Castro

Wish to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to all our relatives and friends for your unending love and support during our most difficult times. Your presence during the Nightly Rosaries, Funeral Mass and the Burial has helped us endure our great loss.

Special Thanks To: Fr. Jesse Reyes, Fr. Rey Rosal, Fr. Isaac M. Ayuyu, our Techa Mrs. Janice R. Camacho, Tan Andresina Chong Villagomez (Kiyu) & children, all our hard working cooks, especially Jesus Kiyu, Mrs. Luisa Matagolai Quitugua & family and our mother's first cousins (DLGuerrero family), to all our relatives and friends and to all those who helped in so many ways.

Your sympathy, condolences, your thoughts and most especially your prayers, and your personal help will forever be treasured in our hearts.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yuus Ma'ase

Ginen Hame Ni Famagu'on-na yan I Familian-mame

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

In loving memory of our dearly beloved

Reneelyn Ramangmou Agulto Acosta Lovingly known as "Leng" December 15, 1977 – January 07, 2011



In her new life, she now joins her:

Grandparents: Guillermo Concepcion Agulto & Martha Camacho Palacios Agulto
Father in-law: Antonio Naputi Acosta

Her love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:

Husband: Anthony Michael F. Acosta
Daughters: Rasey & Jamie Michelle A. Acosta
Son: Lance Anthony A. Acosta
Parents: Jesus Palacios Agulto & Rita Ramangmou Agulto
Brother & Sisters: Roman R. Agulto, Regina R. Agulto & Franko, Renita & Richard Win, Rebecca R. Agulto & Michael Blas, Rita Jessica R. Agulto & Jeffery Guerrero
Mother in-law: Zenaida F. Acosta
Brothers & Sisters in-law: John F. Acosta & Frances DLG., Marites & Ray Yumul and Frankie F. Acosta

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated each morning at 6:00 am at Mt. Carmel Cathedral and Holy Rosary is being recited each evening at 7:30pm. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 am followed by interment service at Mt. Carmel cemetery.

Please join us in prayers

**Anthony Michael F. Acosta and Children
Jesus P. and Rita R. Agulto and Family
†Antonio N. and Zenaida F. Acosta and Family**

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

*In Loving Memory
of Our Beloved*

John

We the family of the late **Juan Duenas Babauta** would like to invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the first death anniversary of his passage unto eternal life.

The following mass will be offered at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m. everyday from January 10, 2011 to January 18, 2011.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much, "Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Maraming Salamat Po.

Marie, LJ, Kristal, Jamie and Family

JOINT DEATH ANNIVERSARY



**Antonio Castro
Lizama
(5th year)**

**Emiling Tenorio
Lizama
(14th year)**

We, the family of the late Antonio C. and Emiling T. Lizama would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the anniversary of our beloved's passing unto eternal life.

Daily mass is offered at the Santa Soledad Parish at six o'clock in the evening, beginning January 11 through 19, 2011. Mass on Sunday, January 16, 2011 will be celebrated at 9:00am.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

Si Yuus Ma'ase

The Family

Life & Style

Italian researcher: symbols found in 'Mona Lisa'

By ALESSANDRA RIZZO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME (AP)—Forget her smile. An Italian researcher says the key to solving the enigmas of "Mona Lisa" lies in her eyes.

Silvano Vinceti claims he has found the letter "S" in the woman's left eye, the letter "L" in her right eye, and the number "72" under the arched bridge in the backdrop of Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting. According to the researcher, the symbols open up new leads to identifying the model, dating the painting, and attesting to Leonardo's interest in religion and mysticism.

This is just the latest theory about a painting that has never ceased to intrigue scholars, art lovers and casual viewers alike. Others have claimed the painting is really the portrait of a man, or a self-portrait, while speculation over the reason for the model's famously enigmatic smile have ranged from pregnancy to mourning.

Some Leonardo scholars have expressed doubt over the new findings or their significance, with one calling them "unsubstantial."

The newly found symbols are not visible to the naked eye. Vinceti said Wednesday they are "very small, painted with a tiny brush and subjected to the wear and tear of time."

Vinceti has not studied the painting directly at the Louvre Museum, where it is on display. He said his research was based on high-definition scanned images from the Lumiere Technology in Paris, which specializes in digitizing artworks. Back in Italy, a Rome laboratory digitally excluded reflexes and other colors in the eyes in order to isolate the letters and make them stand out, Vinceti said.

The number "72" was recently found hidden in an arch of the bridge to the right of the model, he told The Associated Press.

Tradition holds that the "Mona Lisa" is a painting of Lisa Gherardini, wife of Florentine merchant Francesco del Giocondo, and that Leonardo started painting it in 1503.

But Vinceti said the "S" might refer to a woman in the Sforza dynasty that ruled Milan. Leonardo spent time there between 1482-1499 and then between 1506-1507, Vinceti said, which



This picture made available Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011, by the Italian National Committee for Historical, Cultural and Environment Heritage, shows a detail of the right eye of Leonardo da Vinci's 16th century masterpiece the "Mona Lisa" painting.

might change the date of when the painting was begun.

Vinceti said the letter on the painting is drawn in the same way Leonardo did in his writings. The letter "L" is for Leonardo, he said.

Vinceti and his group of historians and researchers are currently studying documents and making cross-references about Leonardo's movements and possible models. He said they expect to come up with a name for the model within weeks.

The number "72," Vinceti argues, is found in the Kabbalah, a form of Jewish mysticism, and

in Christianity. Even when considered separately, "7" is full of symbolic associations in both Judaism and Christianity, for example to the creation of the world, and the number "2" may be a reference to the duality of male and female, said Vinceti.

The researcher said he remains open to other interpretations, but insisted that the "Mona Lisa" was more than just a painting for Leonardo—it was a "cultural will" of sorts.

"Leonardo did nothing by chance," said Vinceti. "He wanted to leave his final thoughts on his view of the universe."

Vinceti is the same researcher who has recently said he located Caravaggio's remains. He also sought to dig up Leonardo's body in France to conduct carbon and DNA testing.

Alessandro Vezzosi, the director of a museum dedicated to Leonardo in his Tuscan hometown of Vinci, was skeptical.

Vezzosi argued that multiple sources prove that the painting depicts a woman from Florence, saying the purported new symbols are insufficient to counter that evidence.

Claudio Strinati, an art historian and an official with the Italian Culture Ministry, said Leonardo's passion for the Kabbalah is well known. But he doesn't believe that Leonardo wanted to attach any symbolic meaning to the letters and numbers, otherwise he would have left better clues.

"Over the past decades there have been so many interpretations I don't even remember them all," Strinati told the AP. "We all think the (Mona Lisa) is this constant source of mystery. The truth is, when you set your mind to finding a secret, you can demonstrate whatever you want."

Aretha Franklin says her health is 'superb'

DETROIT (AP)—A month after surgery in Detroit for an undisclosed ailment, Aretha Franklin says her health is "superb."

Franklin called in to Wednesday's installment of "The Wendy Williams Show," telling the host she was relaxing at a casino hotel in her hometown and hopes to begin traveling soon, saying she'll be "looking for a fabulous beach." She says she has two more weeks of down time as she continues her recovery.

The legendary singer also vowed to reschedule the concert dates she missed.

Franklin's voice was strong and steady during the interview, and she hinted she was dating someone.

With the exception of written statements and print interviews with Jet magazine, this was one of the first times the 68-year-old Franklin has been heard since the Dec. 2 surgery.

Snooki tired of her nickname

NEW YORK (AP)—Nicole Polizzi of "Jersey Shore" is a little over herself.

Well, not herself but her nickname "Snooki."

The reality TV star says the moniker that helped make her famous has gotten a little old and she misses her name.

"I miss my real name. I miss people calling me Nicole," she said.

The 23-year-old's full name and nickname appear on the cover of her new novel, "A Shore Thing."

It's about a young woman named Gia and her cousin Isabella who go to the shore with



Polizzi

the hopes of having the best summer ever. Snooki said their bond is based on her real life relationship with co-star Jenni Farley aka JWoww.

The Jan. 6 episode of "Jersey Shore" set a record for MTV attracting 8.45 million viewers. It was MTV's most watched show ever.

Last month, MTV confirmed castmember Paul "DJ Pauly D" DelVecchio would be getting his own spinoff.

As for rumors Snooki will follow suit with her own show, she said she's open to the possibility.

"There hasn't been any talk ... Of course if the opportunity is given to me, I'm gonna run with it."

Obama 'HOPE' artist, AP settle copyright claims

NEW YORK (AP)—The Associated Press and the artist who created the Barack Obama "HOPE" image have agreed to settle their copyright infringement claims against each other in a deal that calls for them to work together on future projects involving the news agency's pictures.

Both sides announced the agreement in a joint release Wednesday, ending a fight that began after Shepard Fairey's art based on a 2006 AP photograph became an iconic image in Obama's presidential campaign.

Fairey sued the AP in 2009, seeking a court declaration that he did not violate AP's copyrights with the Obama image. The AP countersued, saying he did through his uncredited, uncompensated use of its picture.

As part of the deal, Fairey agreed to not use another AP photograph in his work without obtaining a license from the news cooperative. The two sides also reached a financial settlement; terms weren't disclosed.

The release said neither side surrenders its view of the legal issues surrounding the dispute. The deal also calls for both



In this Jan. 12, 2009 file photo, Los Angeles street artist Shepard Fairey poses for a picture with his Barack Obama Hope artwork in the Echo Park area of Los Angeles.

sides to work together with the "HOPE" image and share rights to make posters and merchan-

dise based on it.

"AP will continue to celebrate the outstanding work of

its award-winning photographers and use revenue from the licensing of those photos to support its

mission as the essential provider of news and photography from around the world," said Tom Curley, the AP's president and CEO.

"The AP will continue to vigilantly protect its copyrighted photographs against wholesale copying and commercialization where there is no legitimate basis for asserting fair use," he said in the release.

Fairey and the AP have agreed to collaborate on a series of images that Fairey will create based on AP photographs.

"I respect the work of photographers, as well as recognize the need to preserve opportunities for other artists to make fair use of photographic images," Fairey said in a statement. "I often collaborate with photographers in my work, and I look forward to working with photos provided by the AP's talented photographers."

The deal also settled claims brought against several companies involved in producing and marketing merchandise related to the Obama image. However, the AP's copyright infringement lawsuit against Obey Clothing, the marketer of apparel with the Obama image, remained set for a March trial.

Uma Thurman stalker wants to reduce new NY charges

NEW YORK (AP)—Uma Thurman's stalker asked a judge on Wednesday to pare down new charges that he flouted a court order by trying to contact the actress again, and his lawyer said the case had been overblown.

Lawyer Sam Roberts said Jack Jordan shouldn't be facing

felony criminal contempt charges because he's not accused of threatening the "Kill Bill" star—just of trying to talk to her and bemoaning her relationship with a Swiss financier.

Jordan has pleaded not guilty to the felony contempt charges and various misdemeanors, in-

cluding stalking.

State Supreme Court Justice Gregory Carro is weighing the argument and may decide Feb. 23. In the meantime, Jordan, a former psychiatric patient, remains jailed on \$500,000 bond or \$250,000 cash bail, which Roberts called unduly high.

"Ms. Thurman is not a vulnerable victim, especially in light of the fact that no threats have been made," said Roberts, arguing the Oscar-nominated actress has assistants to limit access to her.

Prosecutors retorted that Thurman's staff and status should have no bearing on what

protections the legal system affords her.

"She's been stalked by the defendant, who is severely mentally ill, for six years," said Michelle Kaminsky, a Brooklyn assistant district attorney who's handling the case in a Manhattan court.

Conan OK with Letterman, not so much with Leno

Golden-voiced Ohio homeless man headed to rehab

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An Ohio homeless man whose silky voice made him a web phenomenon is headed to rehab for alcohol and drug dependency after an appearance on “Dr. Phil,” show representatives said Wednesday.

Ted Williams agreed to enter a private facility after a lengthy one-on-one interview with Dr. Phil McGraw set to air Thursday, show spokeswoman Stacey Luchs said in a written statement.

Williams’ wife and family will also appear to discuss what they call his persistent drinking and a Monday disturbance at a Los Angeles hotel where police briefly detained Williams and his daughter after a heated argument.

Williams was staying at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel & Spa while in town to tape several TV appearances. Police called the incident “minor” and said there were no signs of physical abuse.

Family members said the dispute was over Williams resuming drinking.



In this Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011 file photo, Ted Williams is interviewed an appearance on the NBC “Today” television show, in New York.

“If Ted is ever going to get better, he’s got to be honest with himself and admit he’s addicted to drugs and alcohol,” McGraw said in a statement. “I’ve told him it’s not going to be easy and it’s going to take a lot of hard work. It might be a long journey for him, but this is a big step in the right direction.”

The appearance will be Williams’ third on the show this week.

Meanwhile back in his

home state, Williams has been subpoenaed in the case of a woman who was accused of drug abuse, authorities said.

The Madison Press in London, Ohio, said Williams was a passenger in the woman’s car in May and is wanted at a Feb. 11 hearing over whether deputies’ search of the car was legal.

Laura Bogreess, who represents the woman, declined to comment to the newspaper on the woman’s relationship to Williams.

Williams, 53, trained to be a radio announcer but found his life derailed by substance abuse and prison time in the 1990s.

Last week he found instant fame after The Columbus Dispatch newspaper posted a Web video of him. Viewers were enthralled to hear a deep, honeyed professional voice coming from the shabbily dressed man.

Since then, he has appeared on many news and entertainment shows, done a TV commercial for Kraft Macaroni & Cheese and was offered an announcing job with the Cleveland Cavaliers basketball team.

Ricky Gervais back as Globes host

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ricky Gervais says he agreed to do a second turn as host of Sunday’s Golden Globe Awards because he wants “to do a proper job this time.”

“I don’t think I went far enough,” continues the comic actor-director-writer-producer. “Obviously not, because they invited me back. So, I’m going to do it again, do a proper job. And I guarantee they will not invite me back.”

This year’s Globe contenders should provide Team Gervais with a bounty of comic fodder, including best-picture nominations for the much-maligned “The Tourist” and “Burlesque.”

“I honestly can’t wait to do it,” Gervais said. “I’m going to go out there, guns blazing, like it’s the end of the world.”



Gervais

After all, the 49-year-old Gervais has little to lose, with what seems like projects at every network and studio in Hollywood. He reunites with frequent collaborator Stephen Merchant and “The Ricky Gervais Show” co-producer and co-star Karl Pilkington for the travel series “An Idiot Abroad,” a UK smash that will debut later this month stateside on Science Channel.

With that, prepare for this year’s Globes host to serve as a pitchman, too.

“I’m going to mention ‘An Idiot Abroad’ on Science,” Gervais said. “I’m going to mention ‘The Ricky Gervais Show’ returning on HBO. I’m going to mention I’m in the Muppet movie, ‘Wind in the Willows.’ Steve (collaborator Merchant) has got

a fridge-freezer for sale.”

Gervais, a 2004 Golden Globe winner for starring in the original British version of “The Office,” promises he’ll never host the Globes again.

“You know I said that last time,” he replied. “I mean, who knows? I want to do either such a bad job I’m not invited back, or such a good job that I don’t want to do it again. That’s nice to do such a good job you don’t revisit it. It sounds arrogant and smug, but we thought that with ‘The Office’ and ‘Extras.’ We thought we put everything into it, and we can leave it there. So, I’d like to say I’m better the second time around. So, I should leave it there, if I do a good job or a bad job. I mean, but who knows? It’s once a year and it’s so much fun.”

The 68th annual Golden Globe Awards is set for Sunday in Beverly Hills.

Hugh Hefner’s ex not happy about his engagement



In this Sept. 24, 2008 file photo, Holly Madison, left, and Hugh Hefner arrive at the Fox Reality Channel Really Awards in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—Hugh Hefner’s ex-girlfriend Holly Madison tells Life & Style magazine she’s not OK with his engagement plans.

She says the 84-year-old Playboy magazine founder is “making a hasty decision” by getting engaged to 24-year-old Playmate Crystal Harris.

Madison tells Life & Style she arranged a meeting with the couple after reading on Twitter that Hefner had proposed. The meeting was filmed for her “Holly’s World” reality show on the E! cable television channel. She says it was “definitely awkward.”

Madison says she wished the couple the best but told them Harris had better not do Hefner wrong or she’ll “kick her butt.”

The 31-year-old Madison and Hefner dated for six years until their breakup in 2008 because she wanted to get married and he didn’t.

This would be the third marriage for Hefner. He divorced another Playmate last year.

By DAVID BAUDER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

BURBANK, California (AP)—Conan O’Brien says he got a phone call from David Letterman over the holidays. The CBS host wanted to make sure a year of late-night TV turmoil hadn’t created a rift between them.

O’Brien told reporters Wednesday that he and Letterman have “always been good. I said he didn’t owe me a phone call, but I appreciated it.”

O’Brien wouldn’t be so receptive to a call from Jay Leno, who preceded and replaced him as “Tonight” show host.

He says the reason is no mystery, noting, “We all know the story.”

O’Brien said the experience of losing the “Tonight” show left him and his staff feeling like

a band of pirates that stuck together through hard times. It’s a dynamic he believes makes the show stronger.

O’Brien’s new TBS show, called “Conan,” began in November. He said the past year’s upheaval has left him more willing to take chances onstage.

“I’m very appreciative,” he said. “There’s nothing like walking away from the ‘Tonight’ show that makes you appreciative of being on the air and having a TV show. I think that feeling is coming through.”

O’Brien’s show and “Lopez Tonight,” which follows it on TBS’ lineup, both have an audience with an average age of 33, the youngest among the late-night talk shows.

“I like performing for children,” he said. “I have a 7-year-old and a 5-year-old. That’s a

workout. Making them laugh brings me a lot of joy.”

He said his comedy has an inherent silliness that a younger audience may appreciate. Reaching a young audience is usually a strength in television, but NBC was concerned that O’Brien wasn’t expanding his audience beyond that.

He acknowledged some sadness at no longer being a part of NBC, and being disconnected with some people he spent a lot of time with. The Monday after his last “Tonight” show, he called his assistant so they could meet to discuss some business. She wondered: “Where?”

So they met in a store that sells pies.

“There’s a whole body of work that I feel a little detached from,” he said.

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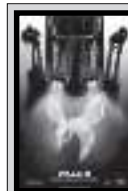
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The Green Hornet

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sat & Sun 1:00 4:00 7:30 9:30
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Tues thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Seth Rogen, Cameron Diaz
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

By day, Britt Reid (Seth Rogen) is a millionaire publisher and popular media figure, but by night, Reid assumes the identity of fearless crime fighter The Green Hornet and teams with his trusted sidekick, Kato (Stephen Chow), to keep the streets safe for average citizens. Producer Neal H. Moritz spearheads this big-screen adaptation of the popular radio serial, comic book, film, and television series originated by Lone Ranger creators Fran Striker and George W. Trendle.



Gulliver's Travels

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sat & Sun 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Tues thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

Jack Black, Emily Blunt
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Jack Black stars in the 20th Century Fox adaptation of Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels with this fantasy-filled comedic production. This take on the timeless tale revolves around a shipwrecked journalist (Black) who discovers an island in the heart of the Bermuda Triangle where he is the biggest occupant in comparison to its tiny inhabitants. Shark Tale's Rob Letterman directs from a script by Forgetting Sarah Marshall's Nick Stoller and Joe Stillman (Shrek).



Season Of The Witch

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sat & Sun 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Monday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Tues thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Director Dominic Sena reenlists his Gone in 60 Seconds star Nicolas Cage on this 14th century supernatural thriller for Relativity Media. As the Black Plague spreads across Europe, a group of knights are enlisted to help give safe passage to a girl whose alleged powers of witchcraft are suspected to be the cause of the deadly pandemic.



Little Fockers

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sat & Sun 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Monday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Tues thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller
Comedy • Rated PG 13

True Grit

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sat & Sun 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Tues thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
Western • Rated PG 13



Tron Legacy

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sat & Sun 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Tues thru Thurs 4:05 7:05

Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges
Science, Fiction • Rated PG



The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sat & Sun 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Tues thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

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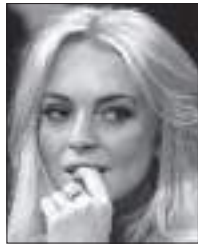
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DA wants further investigation into Lohan

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Riverside County district attorney's office wants another investigation before deciding whether Lindsay Lohan will be charged with battery for last month's skirmish with a Betty Ford Center rehabilitation technician.

Prosecutors and investigators met Wednesday and decided that the office's investigators will further probe Lohan's alleged skirmish with rehab worker Dawn Holland, said



Lohan

John Hall, spokesman for the district attorney's office.

Lohan is accused of tussling with Holland after the 24-year-old actress returned to the rehab center past curfew on Dec. 12

and refused Holland's request to take a Breathalyzer test.

Police said earlier this month that Lohan violated her probation and wanted her charged with battery. A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has said Lohan will be jailed if she violates probation.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Police: actor Peter Fonda finds dead body in car

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles police say actor Peter Fonda discovered a dead body in a car and they are investigating the death. Sgt. Carlton Cook at the West Los Angeles Community Police Station says the "Easy Rider" actor called police Wednesday after he spotted a car parked on the side of Sunset Boulevard. Cook says Fonda is absolutely not a suspect but did not have any more details. The call was first reported by TMZ, which says Fonda got out of his car and found the man slumped over in the front seat. Fonda is best known for his role in the 1969 film "Easy Rider" as sex-and-drugs loving biker Captain America. Other film credits include "Race With the Devil," "Dirty Mary Crazy Larry," and "3:10 to Yuma."

Winfrey's film flop caused mac-and-cheese binge

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey says her worst career moment was the box-office failure of her movie "Beloved." It sent her into what she calls a "macaroni-and-cheese-eating tailspin." Winfrey starred as a former slave in the 1998 film based on a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. The movie had the misfortune to open the same weekend as the slasher film, "Bride of Chucky." "Beloved" was a flop. Winfrey tells Piers Morgan in an interview for his new CNN talk show that it was the only time she was ever depressed. Winfrey says she told her chef to make some mac-and-cheese to help her cope. The interview airs on "Piers Morgan Tonight," premiering Monday.

Hungarian radio cleared in Ice-T controversy

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungary's media watchdog says a small radio station did not break the law by broadcasting explicit songs by rapper Ice-T. Media Council spokeswoman Karola Kiricsi said Monday the council has dropped its probe of Tilos ("Forbidden") Radio. The investigation into whether the station caused harm to minors by playing "Warning" and "It's On" was begun last September after a listener's complaint. The station argued it had very few young listeners who could have understood the English-language lyrics. The council did not explain its decision.

The case drew wide media attention, coming to light just as Hungary took over the rotating presidency of the EU on Jan. 1. Ice-T had welcomed the investigation, posting "I love it! The world still fears me. hahaha!" on Twitter.

John Travolta to get top German award

BERLIN (AP)—A German magazine says John Travolta will receive its Golden Camera award for best international actor in recognition of his "many-sided talents" that have made films from "Saturday Night Fever" to "Pulp Fiction" into modern classics. Reader's of Germany's main TV guide nominate actors, actresses, films and entertainers for the annual award. The winners are selected by a jury. Travolta will receive his award on Feb. 5 in Berlin. The actor said in a statement Wednesday the award was "an honor" and that he was looking forward to traveling to the German capital to receive it.

Oscars to take viewers through time, space, movies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oscar viewers, get ready to take a trip. Academy Awards producers say this year's telecast will include various "scenic transitions" that take viewers to different thematic destinations throughout the show, and Oscars will be presented in each one. Bruce Cohen and Don Mischer said Tuesday that the Oscars will pay homage to iconic moments in movie history, using music and images to transport viewers to the scenes of memorable movies, performances, eras and even the first Academy Awards. Awards for sound and other less viewer-friendly categories will be presented during these short trips. The producers hope the sojourns will help contextualize and improve the average movie fan's understanding of how various elements contribute to moviemaking. The Academy Awards will be presented Feb. 27 at the Kodak Theatre. Oscar nominations will be announced Jan. 25.

Stephen Dorff dedicates 'Somewhere' to his mom

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Stephen Dorff knew he had to play the lead role in "Somewhere." He says his mother, who had died a year earlier, always wanted him to play a role with heart, and Dorff won the part on the

first anniversary of her death. He was in France, where writer-director Sofia Coppola lives, and when she called to tell him he got the part, he saw the Eiffel Tower light up. Dorff says he "felt my mom with me for the first time in a year that was pretty dark and pretty empty." In the film, Dorff plays bad-boy actor Johnny Marco, who lives a party-drenched lifestyle until his young daughter unexpectedly comes to live with him. "Somewhere" expands to seven more cities—Atlanta, Detroit, Palm Springs, Philadelphia, Portland, Sacramento and St. Louis—on Friday.

Travolta says baby boy 'new beginning' for family

NEW YORK (AP)—John Travolta says their 7-week-old baby boy is "a new beginning" for his family. The actor and his wife, Kelly Preston, posed with their son, Benjamin, for the cover of the new issue of People magazine. Travolta says Benjamin has "brought us a new beginning" and "given the house a renewed spirit and purpose." Travolta and Preston's oldest child, son Jett, died in 2008 at the age of 16. Benjamin was born in November in Florida. Preston, 48, and Travolta, 56, also have a 10-year-old daughter, Ella Bleu.

Reba invites Blake Shelton to co-host ACM awards

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Reba McEntire has invited good friend Blake Shelton to join her as co-host of this year's Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas. Shelton is known for his blistering sense of humor and continues a hot streak that has included ACM and Country Music Association award wins. No. 1 songs and now his first hosting gig. And he'll marry country firebrand Miranda Lambert later this year. The awards will air April 3 from the MGM Grand on CBS. Shelton and McEntire announced last year's ACM nominations together and everyone noticed a chemistry. Longtime host McEntire approached producers about inviting him to join. Shelton, known to tell an occasional off-color tale, says in a statement, "you never know what we might say!"

Warhol portraits of Prince Charles, Diana for sale

LONDON (AP) — A London

art gallery says it is putting on sale two portraits by artist Andy Warhol, created to celebrate the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. The Opera Gallery in London says it acquired the original artworks from a private collection and will be selling them as a diptych for 2 million pounds (\$3.15 million.) The central London gallery says Wednesday that the portraits — in silkscreen ink on canvas — were completed in 1982, shortly after the royal wedding. They were initially sold to a private collector, and have not been up for sale again since.

'Green Hornet' actor Eddie Furlong arrested

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors say "Green Hornet" and "Terminator 2" star Eddie Furlong has been arrested in Los Angeles for violating a court order to stay 100 yards (meters) away from his estranged wife. City attorney's office spokesman Frank Mateljan says the 33-year-old actor was in court Tuesday for a hearing on the three-year restraining order obtained by Rachael Kneeland when the judge ordered his arrest. He was released on \$75,000 bond about three hours later. People magazine was first to report the arrest, which came a day after the premiere of "Green Hornet." The movie is in theaters Friday. Kneeland and Furlong, the parents of a 4-year-old son, are involved in divorce proceedings.

Oscar winners Gibney, Guggenheim earn DGA noms

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Academy Award-winning filmmakers Alex Gibney and Davis Guggenheim are among best-directing nominees for documentaries at the Directors Guild of America Awards. Gibney, an Oscar winner for "Taxi to the Dark Side," was nominated Wednesday for "Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer," about the former New York governor's sex scandal. Guggenheim, who won an Oscar for "An Inconvenient Truth," was nominated for "Waiting for 'Superman,'" an examination of U.S. public schools. Other nominees for the guild awards Jan. 29 are Lixin Fan for the Chinese labor portrait "Last Train Home," Charles Ferguson for the economic-crisis chronicle "Inside Job," and Tim Hetherington and Sebastian Junger for the war-on-terror film "Restrepo."

Naughty past posted online jeopardizes student's future

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: A former student asked me to write a character reference to help her land a teaching job abroad. I agreed, since I thought highly of her potential as a teacher and scholar, and her level of character. However, after she was placed in the classroom, the ministry of education of the nation where she was to teach discovered some inappropriate posting on her social networking site.

Because I had written the recommendation, they contacted me asking if they had a problem and provided me with copies of what they had found. Her posting detailed a history of forging fake IDs to buy alcohol while underage, numerous episodes of binge drinking in high school and college, her marijuana use and several exhibitionistic stunts and sexual activities that I won't mention. I was shocked. None of this matched the person I thought I knew.

When I tried to contact her to let her know she had been discovered, she rebuffed my inquiries and cut off all contact! Her parents' response was denial and to "kill the messenger." I have been left with the problem of how to respond to the ministry's questions.

Ordinarily I would not want my signature associated with someone with those behaviors and attitudes, but this young woman is in legal jeopardy abroad. I still don't know if what she wrote is true, but I find it highly problematic that she would portray herself as she did.

This situation has so shaken my trust in the character and judgment of the 20-something crowd that I'm now reluctant to write recommendations for any of my students. What do you think I should have done? I'm concerned that too many of these young people, however intelligent, lack integrity, character, judgment and common sense.

HEARTBROKEN TEACHER, OAKLAND, CALIF.

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: You responded appropriately by trying to contact your former student and her parents. If the information on that social networking site is an accurate reflection of her behavior, she could get herself in real trouble if the country she's in is one with conservative social views.

It is intelligent of you to think twice about giving references to students in the future. It's important that you be careful because there could be liability for you if you knew anything about her antics when you wrote her recommendation. If you are wondering how to respond to the ministry of education, what you need to convey is that you had no knowledge of any social networking sites or postings related to her, and that you were basing your recommendations on your personal interactions with her.

Let this be a lesson to all young people who are using social networking sites. Employers are doing background checks and you will be discovered. Any past communications you have on the Internet are there to stay.

This has been a hot topic in the media. But I'm interested to know what you, my readers, both young and old, think about this. You teach me more than I teach you, and this subject is one of great importance.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

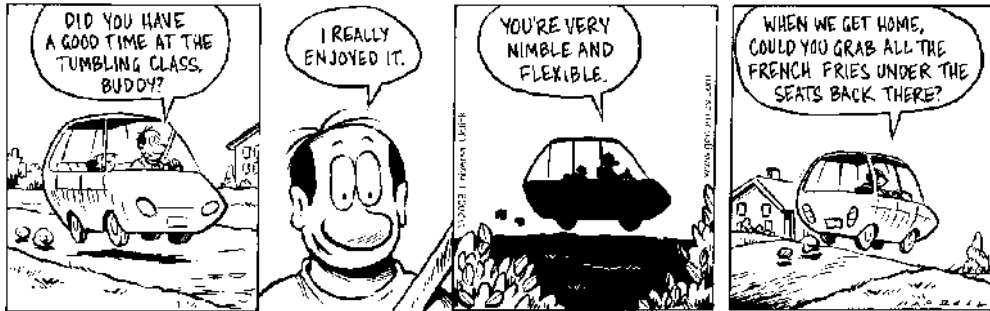


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

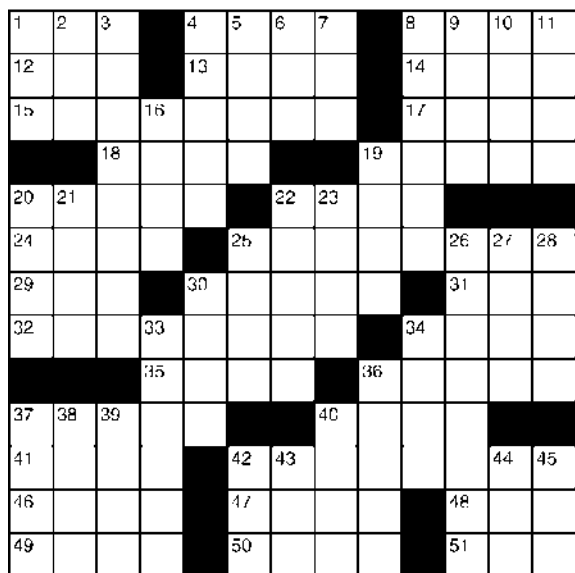
1 Haven't paid yet
4 Battery measure
8 Sacred bird of Egypt
12 Coop occupant
13 Sandwich treat
14 Staff member?
15 Lots of power?
17 Huffed and puffed
18 First victim
19 Appears ominously
20 Christmas tree topper, often
22 Someone who's gonna get it?
24 Porter's "Let's"
25 Total abstinence from meat and dairy

DOWN

29 Curry of NBC News
30 Stogie
31 Old coin
32 Considered
34 Clay-rich soil
35 Young horse
36 Insurrectionist
37 Distorted
40 Top-notch
41 Actress Perlman
42 Major French airport
46 Layer
47 Oil cartel
48 Meacow weaver
49 Hourglass stuff
50 Lillian of silents
51 Melody
21 Zilch
22 German philosopher
23 "Zounds!"
25 "Livin' La — Loca"
26 Columbus' benefactor
27 Aching (over)
28 Think
30 Singer Sheryl
33 Frightened, in dialect
34 Carte
36 Kitchen pest
37 — and crafts
38 Actor LaBoeuf
39 Acute
40 A very long time
42 Pooch
43 Over (Prof.)
44 Mainlander's memento
45 Listener

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-14



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-228-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Bateman, 42; LL Cool J, 43; Holland Taylor, 68; Faye Dunaway, 70

Happy Birthday: Take more interest in friendships, family and your home this year. The changes you make will be a steppingstone to your future and a must if you want to continue to move forward. Rethink your strategy and you'll come up with ways to do less for more. Let your intuition and your experience guide you into the future. Your numbers are: 2, 6, 17, 21, 26, 35, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's catch-up time, so focus and concentrate. Don't fret over what someone else does or says. Love and money appear to cross paths. Before you spend trying to please someone, see if there is room in your budget. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't worry about showing your emotions; it will help you relate better to your peers and your family. Expressing what you want is the fastest way to achieve your goals. Expect greater understanding and plenty of suggestions. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Discuss money investment with a financial expert and you can stabilize your situation. A partnership is apparent but, before you move ahead, check the individual's credentials. Moderation will be the key to your success. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may be tempted to follow instead of lead. Before you make an impulsive move, consider what you stand to lose or gain. You may want to slow down. Your intuition won't fail you but greed will. ★★★



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stabilize your current career situation by doing more. It's all about work ethics and how you see yourself fitting into the changing economy and business structure. Love is on the rise. Future promises will be reciprocated. ★★★



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Travel, socialize and network. Now is not the time to invest more in your surroundings or to make an impulsive move. Enjoy the people you care about and you will realize what you want to do regarding your present location. ★★★★★



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't question or oppose the people you interact with or you will face negativity and disappointment. Observe and focus more on the creative endeavors you enjoy. Don't overspend trying to make yourself or someone else feel better. ★★★



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Taking time to create something new or to get involved in a group that you relate to will lead to an exciting new enterprise. A trip geared toward something you love doing and spending time with people you enjoy will show you the way to a brighter future. ★★★



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't fool yourself into thinking that you've gotten away with something. If you haven't abided by the rules, you can expect someone to point the finger at you. Don't mess with authority, especially in your personal life. ★★★



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Spend more time working with family or on your residence. This is a good time to

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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look into personal investments or to throw a party at your place. Your enthusiasm and warmth will lead to some excellent opportunities. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick close to home and figure out a way to make things better. Put your personal papers in order and set a budget for the year. Someone from your past will be able to help you. An honest effort to make your life better will pay off. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can make more money and get involved in better projects if you are prepared. Changes at home will be conducive to a better lifestyle and will also show off your skills. You will be awarded favors and given opportunities to excel. ★★★★★

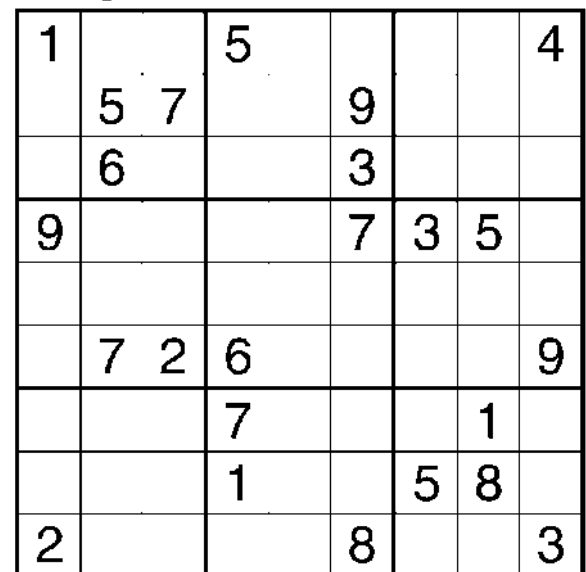
Birthday Baby: You are disciplined and use your knowledge, experience and intuition to get ahead. You can be pushy until you get your way.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

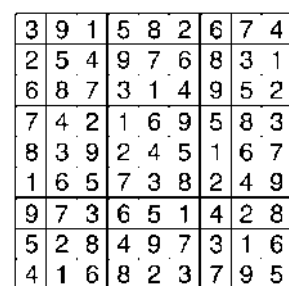


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RAP & HIP HOP MUSIC

Solution: 6 letters

G M E A N I N G A L B U M S
N E R S E L B A L L Y S S C U
I T N O I S U F B M T R R B P
P S S R F O R I O A E A I O E
P H I F R N D W V T I F C R
A L F P T E E A Y C L T H B S
R Y A U T R R P H B R A L E T
E T B N N D A I O Y N E C E A
L S O A I K N A Y T T N A O R
E C G B N G R T E D E R U T V
A R L N L D I D A U O T A I E
S I E E I U I R L L F L D P S
E P N T V S E F O I E E E U O
S T I H C E N S T S O N C M R
H F L O W I R M E L T I T P P

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Yesterday's Answer: Fungible
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Hornets win in overtime to snap Magic streak



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The New Orleans Hornets held off Orlando 92-89 in overtime on Wednesday, snapping the Magic's nine-game NBA winning streak.

Marcus Thornton capped a 22-point performance with a crucial jumper and two free throws in the final minute of the extra period as the Hornets took the lead for good.

Emeka Okafor had 18 points and 14 rebounds for New Orleans.

Orlando's Dwight Howard had 29 points and 20 rebounds, but missed a pair of free throws that could have given his side a one-point lead with 11 seconds to go.

The Magic erased a seven-point deficit in the final minute of regulation to force overtime.

Jazz 131, Knicks 125

In Salt Lake City, seven Utah players reached double figures in a battle of 3-pointers against New York.

Deron Williams and reserve C.J. Miles scored 24 points apiece for the Jazz, who hit 10 of 22 long shots while New York made 14 of 29.

Reserve Shawne Williams was 7 of 8 from behind the arc and scored 25 points for the Knicks, who made it close after trailing by as many as 16.

New York still hasn't won in Salt Lake City since 2005.

Spurs 91, Bucks 84

In Milwaukee, reserve Matt Bonner scored all 17 of his points in the second half to lift San Antonio over Milwaukee and to its fourth straight win.

Trailing by two, Bonner sparked an 11-2 run after hitting two 3-pointers and a floater that gave San Antonio a 79-72 lead with 8:32 left. When Milwaukee cut it to three late, Bonner answered with a 15-footer with 57 seconds to play that halted the Bucks' rally.

Manu Ginobili added 23 as the Spurs improved the NBA's best record to 33-6 despite a pace more fitting to the grinding Bucks, who came in as the worst shooting and lowest scoring team in the league.

John Salmons scored 17 to lead Milwaukee.

Lakers 115, Warriors 110

In Oakland, sluggish Los Angeles rallied late to beat Golden State for their sixth straight victory.

Kobe Bryant scored 17 of his 39 points in the final 5:49 and also assisted on Ron Artest's crucial 3-pointer with 1:55 to play.

Pau Gasol added 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who looked uncharacteristically out of sync for much

of the game before turning it on when it mattered for their 12th consecutive win over the Warriors and sixth straight in Oakland.

Golden State's Lamar Odom did his part to fuel the comeback, scoring 10 straight points during a key fourth-quarter stretch on the way to 20 points and nine rebounds.

Thunder 118, Rockets 112

In Houston, Oklahoma City won the franchise's first game in Houston in 12 attempts.

Kevin Durant scored 30 points and Russell Westbrook added 23 points and 13 assists for the Thunder. The franchise won in Houston for the first time since 2004-05 when it was still the Seattle SuperSonics.

Luis Scola scored 31 points, but none in the fourth quarter, for Houston. The Rockets again played without leading scorer Kevin Martin and backup center Brad Miller due to injury.

Houston scored a season-high 70 points in the paint, but went 5 for 18 from 3-point range.

Clippers 111, Heat 105

In Los Angeles, the hosts provided a major upset by ending Miami's 13-game road winning streak.

Blake Griffin had 24 points and 14 rebounds for his 30th double-double, while Eric



New Orleans Hornets guard Marcus Thornton, right, shoots over Orlando Magic forward Ryan Anderson in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011.

Gordon added 26 points for the Clippers, who led virtually the entire game against the NBA's second-best team. It was just the 13th win of the season for Los Angeles.

Dwyane Wade scored 31 points for the Heat, who had also won nine in a row overall.

A three-point play by James and a 3-pointer by Chris Bosh got the Heat within four, but Gordon calmly made two free throws to seal the win for the Clippers, who have won three straight.

Pacers 102, Mavericks 89

In Indianapolis, Indiana's Brandon Rush scored eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to help secure a win that lifted the Pacers clear of Dallas atop the Southeast Division.

Danny Granger and Darren Collison both scored 17 points for Indiana.

Jason Terry scored 18 points for the Mavericks in a disappointing return for former Pacers coach Rick Carlisle.

Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki missed his eighth straight game with a knee sprain.

Bobcats 96, Bulls 91

In Charlotte, D.J. Augustin had 22 points and 12 assists, outplaying Derrick Rose in Charlotte's victory over Chicago.

The Bulls, off to their best start since their last title un-

der Michael Jordan in 1998, couldn't keep it going with Jordan sitting courtside.

The Bobcats owner stood and clapped as the final seconds ticked down in Charlotte's fourth straight win. Ex-Bull Tyrus Thomas added 17 points and 13 rebounds as the Bobcats moved to 6-2 under interim coach Paul Silas.

Carlos Boozer had 23 points and 14 rebounds for Chicago.

Hawks 104, Raptors 101

In Toronto, Mike Bibby made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 8.2 seconds left to give Atlanta victory over Toronto and a fifth straight win.

Jamal Crawford scored a season-high 36 points and Joe Johnson scored 26 points for the Hawks.

Leandro Barbosa had a season-best 26 points for the Raptors, who also got 26 from Andrea Bargnani.

Celtics 119, Kings 95

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored 25 points to help Boston beat Sacramento.

Pierce scored 15 in the first quarter as Boston got off to a quick start while bouncing back from a surprising home loss to Houston on Monday.

Rajon Rondo had 10 points and 13 assists for the Celtics.

Reserve Carl Landry scored 17 points for Sacramento, which has lost 12 consecutive road games.

Grizzlies 107, Pistons 99

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Zach Randolph had 34 points and 17 rebounds for Memphis in the win over Detroit.

Rudy Gay scored 26 points in a new Pistons starting lineup. Richard Hamilton was benched, Ben Wallace was out injured and was replaced by rookie Greg Monroe, while Tracy McGrady and Chris Wilcox came in for Ben Gordon and Charlie Villanueva.

Hamilton, rumored to be part of a potential Carmelo Anthony trade, did not play—the first game he has missed due to coach's decision since sitting out the final regular-season game of the 2008-09 season to rest for the playoffs.

Suns 118, Nets 109, OT

In Phoenix, the home team erased a 15-point, fourth-quarter deficit on its way to an overtime victory over New Jersey.

Steve Nash had 23 points—including 10 in overtime—and 16 assists while Vince Carter also scored 23 points to notch his highest total since arriving from Orlando in a trade.

Phoenix trailed 90-75 with eight minutes left in regulation before turning up the pressure on defense.

Reserve Sasha Vujacic scored 19 points for the Nets.

LeBron James doesn't back off his 'karma' tweet

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James stood by his tweet—sort of.

One day after tweaking Cleveland owner Dan Gilbert and the Cavaliers on Twitter during the most lopsided loss in his former team's history, James explained he wasn't making fun of the Cavs and even denied the pointed message was his.

As the Cavs were absorbing a 55-point loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night, James fired off on his KingJames account: "Crazy. Karma is a b-----. Gets you every time. Its not good to wish bad on anybody. God sees everything!"

The message seemed to be aimed directly at Gilbert, who after James announced he was leaving for Miami as a free agent in July, wrote a scathing letter to Cleveland fans questioning the two-time MVP's character and predicting he would take Cleveland's curse with him "down south. ... James will unfortunately own this dreaded spell and bad karma."

But before Miami's game on Wednesday night against the Los Angeles Clippers, James awkwardly attempted to explain his intent.

"It was just how I was feeling at the time," he said. "It wasn't even a comment from me, it was

someone who sent it to me and I sent it out. It wasn't towards that team. It definitely wasn't a good showing by that team last night, I know they wish they would have played better, but nothing towards them."

James never once mentioned the Cavs by name.

Cleveland's 112-57 loss to the Lakers was the club's 11th straight and the Cavs' most lopsided since joining the league in 1970.

After the game, Cavs guard Mo Williams tweeted: "embarrassing, I feel like I can't even show my face in Cleve."

James and Gilbert have been at odds since the summer, when the superstar decided to join forces in Miami with fellow superstars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. In an interview with The Associated Press in the hours after James' announcement during an hour-long TV special, Gilbert accused James of quitting in the playoffs the past two seasons.

And while both insist they've moved on, James' tweet seems to show he has lingering bitterness toward Gilbert.

However, James denied that was the case.

"It wasn't no hit at that franchise, no hit at that team, especially those players at all," he said. "I've moved on and

hopefully that organization is continuing to move on, but I'm happy where I am as a Miami Heat player."

James' social network message was poorly received in Cleveland, where fans still feel betrayed by him spurning them. It's bad enough the Cavs are struggling, but James decided to kick them when they're down.

"Everyone looks into everything that I say," he said. "Everybody looked too far into it."

James said he's used the word karma throughout his life.

"Where I come from and my background I've always kind of used that to not take things for granted ever," he said. "We all know how strong of a word it is."

The Akron native was rudely received by Cleveland fans when he returned on Dec. 2. The Heat demolished the Cavs 118-90 that night, and both teams haven't been the same since. Miami has gone 19-1 after their visit to Cleveland, while the Cavs are 1-20.

Little has gone right this season for Cleveland, which got off to a 7-9 start. But the losses have been mounting along with several key injuries. Last week, hustling center Anderson Varejao suffered a season-ending injury when he tore an ankle

tendon during a non-contact running drill in practice.

But the Cavs, who had the league's best regular-season record the past two seasons with James, were playing poorly before Varejao went down. Now, they can only hope they've reached rock bottom.

In their epic loss to the Lakers, the Cavs played three rookies for long stretches and established a new team record for fewest points. They also sustained their worst loss since getting beat 141-87 in the 11th game of their inaugural 1970 season.

The Lakers nearly doubled Cleveland's point total. It was so bad that the Lakers could have gone scoreless in the second half—and still forced overtime! The blowout was especially disturbing to first-year Cleveland coach Byron Scott, a proud member of the Lakers' "Showtime" teams.

"I thought that was embarrassing," Scott said. "I told them at halftime, 'You look scared. You look scared to death.' That was my take on it, as simple as that."

Cavs forward Antawn Jamison was at a loss for words.

"In 13 years, I can honestly say I ain't ever felt that embarrassed to be on the basketball court," he said. "There's nothing else you can really say."

Brady shrugs off criticism from Jets' Cromartie



FOXBOROUGH, Mass.

(AP)—Tom Brady just wants to talk about football. The New York Jets won't let him.

Day after noisy day, the mouths to the south keep moving. The quarterback tries to evade their onslaughts as if they were 300-pound pass rushers.

The latest blitz: Jets cornerback Antonio Cromartie called the mop-topped leader of the New England Patriots an expletive.

"I've been called worse," Brady said, brushing it off like the heavy snow that fell on Foxborough. "I'm sure there's a long list of people who feel that way."

Cromartie made his comment Tuesday to the *New York Daily News* and didn't back off on Wednesday, although he said he's never met Brady.

"Why should I regret it? That's how I feel," he said. "As long as I'm in the NFL and he's in the NFL, there's going to be a hatred."

Brady just keeps plowing forward.

The Patriots most valuable motorist, who was involved in a car collision three days before the season opener but made it to practice, traveled treacherous roads and arrived at work on time Wednesday.

"It was tough conditions for everyone," Brady said. "But everyone's here, ready to work and get ready for the biggest game of the year."

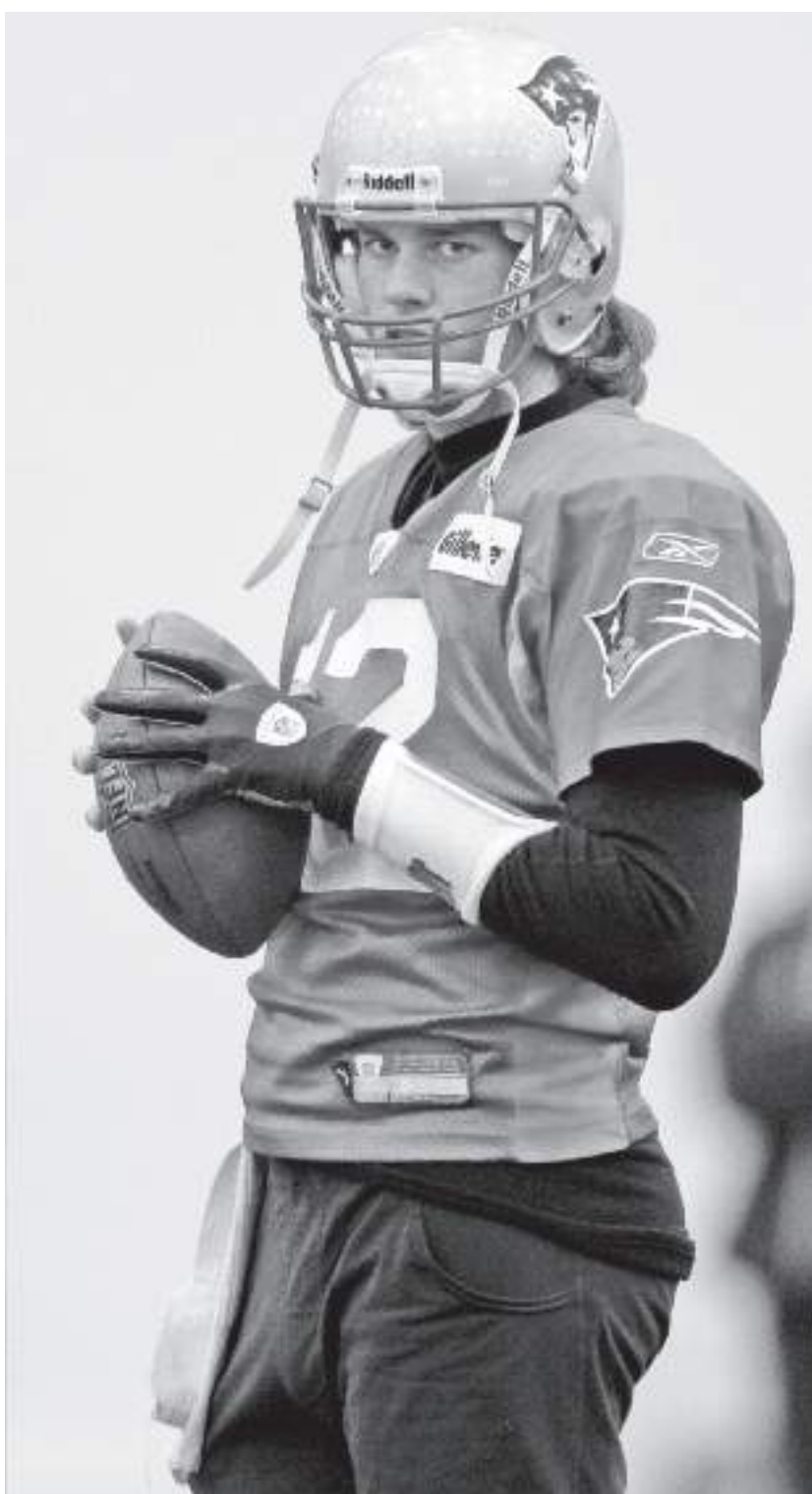
Does anything faze this guy?

New York's Rex Ryan hopes to be as successful outwitting New England's Bill Belichick on the field as he is off it when the coaches lead their teams in Sunday's divisional playoff game.

Ryan already has opened wide his bulging playbook of colorful remarks by throwing verbal jabs at Brady, who simply shrugs them off—but may not forget.

Last Thursday, the Jets boss said "nobody" studies like Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning. Brady, Ryan said, "thinks he does" but gets more help from Belichick than there is with Manning. Brady acknowledged that he gets "a ton" of help from his coach.

On Saturday night during the Patriots' bye week, Brady attended the Broadway play "Lombardi" about Green Bay's legendary coach Vince Lombardi and missed part of the Jets' 17-16 playoff win over the Colts on television. Ryan said on Monday, with



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) during practice at the NFL football team's facility in Foxborough, Mass., Wednesday, Jan. 12, 2011.

a grin, that "Manning would have been watching our game."

He also said that day that Brady "took a shot at me by his antics on the field." Did he mean Brady pointed at the Jets' sideline or looked at them after scoring? "I don't like seeing that; nobody does. No Jet fan likes to see that.

And I know he can't wait to do it. He's not going to say anything publicly," Ryan said.

He's right about that.

"It's certainly not my intent. I'm sure there's 50,000 cameras on the game. If I did that I'm sure they'd show it," Brady said, sounding innocent. "I don't

think I've ever pointed at anybody. That's not my style."

Even if he did rub it in by gesturing to the New York sideline after scoring during a 45-3 win Dec. 6, it could have been prevented—by the Jets themselves.

"He was pretty demonstrative when we played him up there last time," Jets linebacker Jason Taylor said. "I come from the school of thought where if you don't want someone to celebrate or be excited or say something to you or do something that you might perceive as offensive, then don't let them score."

Cromartie said he hopes Brady tries to pick on him Sunday for his remark.

But is there a line that can be crossed that goes beyond trash talking?

"I'm sure there is," Belichick said calmly.

And what is that?

"I don't know," he said. "In my mind right now it's the New York Jets Sunday at 4:30."

Might all the jabbering have an effect on the Patriots performance then?

"We'll see on Sunday night at 7:30," Brady said. "That's when everybody will be able to tell whether it played a role or not."

It will be Brady's first postseason game since the worst one in a career in which he is 14-4 in the playoffs with three Super Bowl championships. He lost in the first round last season to Baltimore, 33-14. In the first quarter alone, he threw two interceptions, lost a fumble and was sacked twice as Baltimore took a 24-0 lead. Even his home fans booed him.

He hasn't talked much about whether that loss motivates him but he appears more driven this season. He's thrown 36 touchdown passes and only four interceptions, just one more than the Ravens picked off in that rout.

"That's kind of hard to do in this league," Jets cornerback Darrelle

Revis said, "and he's doing it like a piece of cake."

Ryan keeps saying he respects Brady as a player but won't punish Cromartie for using a nasty word.

"We don't have to be all lovey-dovey and say he's the greatest thing since sliced bread," Ryan said. "We have a right to our opinion and a comment like that, it's no big deal."

Belichick says his team is focused on preparing for the game. His players say that Cromartie's characterization doesn't motivate them and that he's entitled to his opinion.

When asked about the unflattering description, Brady smoothly shifted the direction to praising Cromartie's skills.

"He's a good player," Brady said. "Revis is a great player. They have a great secondary and they are one of the best defenses we face. We're going to spend a lot of time preparing for them. ... The way they shut down the Colts offense is pretty impressive because we know how good that offense is."

Cromartie has one of the four interceptions Brady threw. Revis held AFC receptions leader Reggie Wayne to one catch for a yard in the playoff win over Indianapolis.

For the Patriots, the goal is to beat Cromartie and his defensive mates on the field. The talk can wait.

"I don't think we're spending our time figuring out what we can do to combat what people say about us," Brady said. "Not everybody has great things to say about our team or organization or certain players and that's the way it's always been."

He's even been criticized by his own coaches. Some, he said, have used the same word Cromartie used.

"Belichick's called me that and my offensive coordinator calls me that," Brady said. "I know they like me so maybe he really likes me."

Browns' search stalls

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Browns' coaching search has either stalled or stopped.

Team president Mike Holmgren did not interview any candidates on Wednesday, the 10th day of Cleveland's pursuit of a replacement for Eric Mangini. A team spokesman said the Browns had nothing to report and was not aware of any further interviews.

The Browns have met with three known candidates: St. Louis offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur, Atlanta offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey and Giants defensive coordinator Perry Fewell. It was assumed the Browns would interview Philadelphia offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg, but that meeting has not taken place or been scheduled.

The 45-year-old Shurmur is believed to be the front-runner to become Cleveland's fifth coach in 13 years. He worked in Philadelphia under coach Andy Reid, a protege and close friend of Holmgren's. Shurmur also worked with Browns general manager Tom Heckert.

ESPN.com, citing anonymous league sources, said the Browns hope to finalize a contract with Shurmur "within the next 48 hours" and introduce him at a news conference by Friday. If that's the case, negotiations will be interesting to say the least.

Shurmur is represented by agent Bob LaMonte, whose clients include Holmgren, Heckert and Browns executive vice president Bryan Wiedmeier.

LaMonte has not returned numerous phone messages left with his agency throughout Cleveland's coaching search.

The NFL Network reported the Browns are in contract talks and that LaMonte will come to Cleveland on Thursday to finalize the deal.

Although he lacks head coaching experience, Shurmur's background running a West Coast offense and working with young quarterbacks is appealing to Holmgren, who set out on his search determined to "find exactly the right person for the job who can eventually someday lead us to the championship. That is my only goal."

Holmgren wants to expand Cleveland's offense, which languished under Mangini and offensive coordinator Brian Daboll.

Under Shurmur's guidance this season, Rams rookie quarterback Sam Bradford passed for 18 touchdowns and 3,512 yards—second-most by a rookie behind Peyton Manning's 3,739 in 1998. Before joining St. Louis' staff, Shurmur coached Philadelphia's quarterbacks, and developed Donovan McNabb into one of the game's top QBs.

Carroll says Seahawks want Hasselbeck back

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Wednesday the Seahawks would like to bring quarterback Matt Hasselbeck back for the 2011 season.

Asked directly about Hasselbeck's future with the franchise during his weekly press conference, Carroll said the team would like to do "everything we can" to have Hasselbeck return for an 11th season with the franchise.

"We don't know the timelines or how that's going to work out, and all that kind of stuff, but that's a big issue for us that we're looking forward to. He's had a terrific run for us and we want to see what we can do to keep that going," Carroll said.

Seattle plays at Chicago on Sunday in the NFC divisional playoff.

Hasselbeck's current contract with Seattle was signed before the start of the 2005 season and followed by Has-

selbeck leading Seattle to its only Super Bowl appearance. That contract expires at the end of this season.

"That's the first I've heard of that. I didn't know he said that," Hasselbeck told Chicago reporters during a conference call Wednesday. "We've had good communication all year long."

Hasselbeck added that he wants to play on a winning team and one that's "headed in the right direction."

"That's kind of been our goal here," he said. "If we can get that done here and I can be a part of it, that'd be awesome. If not, I understand."

Hasselbeck's first season with Carroll has been a series of ups and downs, getting booed off the field less than a month ago, countered by the highs of last Saturday's 41-36 upset of New Orleans to open the NFC playoffs in one of Hasselbeck's finest performances.

Hasselbeck threw for 272 yards and

a career playoff-high four touchdowns in engineering the Seahawks' upset victory over the defending Super Bowl champions. He threw TD passes of 7 and 11 yards to tight end John Carlson, 45 yards to Brandon Stokley and 38 yards to Mike Williams.

It was a stark contrast to his previous start at home in Week 15 against Atlanta when Hasselbeck was booed off the field and eventually replaced in the third quarter by backup Charlie Whitehurst. Whitehurst also started the season finale against St. Louis and led Seattle to a 16-6 victory that clinched the NFC West title and a playoff spot for the Seahawks.

Hasselbeck walked off the field on Saturday to rousing cheers with his daughters at his side and his son, Henry, propped up on his shoulders.

"It was a great experience winning the game and then having them down on the field was special," he said.

All's quiet on baseball front as Selig, GMs meet



PARADISE VALLEY, Ariz. (AP)—Commissioner

Bud Selig met with baseball's general managers at the start of what promised to be an uneventful two-day meeting of owners at an appropriately tranquil Phoenix-area resort.

Expansion of the playoffs to include two more wild card teams has been put off until at least 2012, largely because it would must be agreed to by the players' association. The union's labor contract with Major League Baseball expires in December.

Selig wasn't scheduled to talk with reporters until Thursday, following a joint meeting of general managers and owners. When he walked past reporters on Wednesday he told them they were "in for a lot of dead

time" at the meetings.

While the NFL and NBA are talking lockout in labor confrontations, baseball has made no such dire warnings, a sign of the peace that exists between owners and the union since the devastating 1994-95 strike that wiped out the World Series for the first time in nine decades.

"Commissioner Selig has worked hard obviously to put the game into the position, as well as the union side, to both work together to find compromise," New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "They've done a great job with that."

Several general managers said the playoff expansion and proposed increase in the use of instant replay didn't even come up when the GMs met with Selig. They said those are issues to be decided at the ownership level.

Chicago Cubs general manager Jim Hendry said expanding the playoffs "would probably be good for the fans."

"Certainly other sports have more teams and I think that's very beneficial," he said. "The way the game's gone the last decade, a lot of parity and a really a lot of good jobs by not just the big market teams getting in, I think whatever keeps people in the race and keeps the fans that love their team's with the hope of getting in and maybe another team or two get in I think that would be great."

Oakland general manager Billy Beane said MLB should be careful about expanding instant replay.

"You've got to be careful letting the genie out of the bottle," he said. "Really, there's got to be a lot of discussion. I think there should be limitations quite

frankly. ... I think there's a certain part of baseball history that lends itself to human decisions."

A year ago, at these same meetings, Selig adopted a policy of including general managers in meetings with owners to help them understand the differences of their jobs.

"Last year they scheduled an hour or two for us and then it turned out to be a four- or five-hour meeting," Cashman said.

With little to deal with on the administrative front, talk quickly turned to the upcoming season and the always-rugged AL East.

Cashman said he was still working on pitching from what he described as a "thin" free agent pool, and as far as he knew Andy Pettitte still planned to stay home with his family rather than pitch another season. If Pettitte changes his mind, any

return would be with the Yankees, Cashman said.

Boston Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein feels good, with good reason, about his team's offseason moves, which included the additions of Adrian

Gonzalez and Carl Crawford.

"There's a real good feeling around the clubhouse right now," he said, "that if they work hard enough they've got a chance to be part of something special."

Source: Farnsworth nears deal with Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Free agent reliever Kyle Farnsworth is approaching an agreement on a one-year contract with the Tampa Bay Rays, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The deal could be agreed to Thursday or Friday and will be worth about \$3.25 million, the person said. The person spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been finalized.

The Rays, rebuilding their bullpen after winning the AL East last season, declined comment.

Farnsworth split time last season between the Kansas City Royals and Atlanta Braves, going 3-2 with a 3.34 ERA in 60 games. The 34-year-old right-hander has pitched for five teams during a 12-year career and is 34-55 with a 4.39 ERA in 713 career games.

A stronger-than-expected bullpen was one of the keys to Tampa Bay winning its second division title in three years,

however a tight budget has not allowed executive vice president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman to keep the unit intact for next season.

Joaquin Benoit, Randy Choate and Dan Wheeler have already departed via free agency, and Grant Balfour and All-Star closer Rafael Soriano, who saved a franchise-record 45 games in 2010, are expected to sign elsewhere, too. Farnsworth would join right-handed reliever Joel Peralta, who received a \$925,000, one-year contract, as offseason additions.

Key losses are not limited to the bullpen, though.

All-Star left-fielder Carl Crawford signed a \$142 million, seven-year contract with the Boston Red Sox and slugger Carlos Pena agreed to a \$10 million, one-year deal with the Chicago Cubs. Shortstop Jason Bartlett was traded to the San Diego Padres and starting pitcher Matt Garza was dealt to the Cubs in an eight-player trade last week.

MLB BRIEFS

AL MVP Hamilton still hospitalized, but improving

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—AL MVP Josh Hamilton remains hospitalized while showing signs of getting better in a bout with pneumonia. In a statement Wednesday, the Texas Rangers said Hamilton "is showing significant improvement" but remained at the hospital for treatment "in order to accelerate his full recovery." The team said Hamilton is expected to be released by the weekend and should be able to resume his conditioning and baseball activities within a few days after his release. Hamilton was diagnosed Monday with an early case of pneumonia. The Rangers disclosed his condition Tuesday. Hamilton hit a majors-leading .359 with 32 homers and 100 RBIs last season for the AL champion Rangers.

Source: Penny agrees to deal with Tigers

Right-hander Brad Penny has agreed to a \$3 million, one-year contract with the Detroit Tigers, a person familiar with the negotiation told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the agreement hasn't been announced. The deal includes \$3 million in performance bonuses. The 32-year-old Penny is coming off an abbreviated season with the St. Louis Cardinals. He went on the disabled list in late May with a strain in his upper back, and although it was believed at the time to be a minor injury, he didn't pitch again. Penny went 3-4 with a 3.23 ERA in nine starts. The previous season, Penny started 30 games for Boston and San Francisco.



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Pacquiao, Arum desperate for win vs black fighter

By ALEX GROBERMAN
OPPOSING VIEWS

From the start, the ill-conceived Manny Pacquiao-Shane Mosley fight made very little sense.

Well, scratch that. It made sense from the standpoint that it offered the Filipino champion a shot at walking away with a big payday with yet another hand-picked punching bag, while not risking a loss. However, it didn't make much sense for Pacquiao's legacy.

After all, what is beating down an aging, ineffective Mosley going to do for Pacquiao's reputation besides hurt it?

Now, after Top Rank head honcho Bob Arum's latest comments, it all makes sense.

"Manny Pacquiao, with all due respect, never has fought a fighter of the ability and the skill set of Mosley. Mosley is the epitome of an African American fighter with a style," Arum told AOL FanHouse.

Suddenly, the picture becomes clear. This stupid fight wasn't just about the acknowledged greediness of both Top Rank and Pacquiao. No, it was about something bigger. It was racially motivated, and planned



Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao waves to the crowd after his successful bout against Antonio "Tijuana Tornado" Margarito for the WBC Super Welterweight Title on Nov. 13, 2010 at Dallas Cowboys Stadium in Dallas, Texas.

out with the Filipino superstar's legacy in mind.

They're getting desperate

Everyone knows that Pacquiao has never defeated an African-American fighter. Floyd Mayweather Jr. was supposed to be the Filipino superstar's chance to silence Bernard Hopkins and everyone else who said that he would never have the same success against a black American boxer that he had against others. However, rather than man-

ning up, taking the appropriate drug tests and fighting the real pound-for-pound king, Pacquiao weaseled out of the potential bout and fought a PR war against Mayweather instead.

His fans took it hook, line and sinker—but one problem remained: he still hadn't beaten an African American boxer.

Knowing this little fact would always come back to haunt him, Pacquiao and Arum plotted a way to get past this hurdle. All they needed was a big-name, shameless black American

boxer who didn't care that he was essentially be used as a stepping stone to building someone else's legacy.

Mosley fit that bill

Even Hopkins must be gritting his teeth at this dog-and-pony show now. He was right in his analysis of Pacquiao's resume, but he wasn't expecting Arum and Pacquiao to take this route.

When asked about it by AOL FanHouse Hopkins kept it short and sweet:

"No matter what happens

when Shane Mosley and Manny Pacquiao fight, until he fights a Floyd Mayweather, who I think represents not only the style but the community I come from when it comes to the slickness and the boxing and the knowledge that Shane Mosley has also."

Translation: Why doesn't Pacquiao act like a big boy and challenge an in-his-prime African-American fighter?

Anyway, Arum and the paper champ will do as they please. This isn't the first time they've tried to hustle the public with their non-sensical PR tricks, and it won't be the last. The sheep will fall for it and continue to bow down, but the true fans know better.

Pacquiao can beat Mosley to every color of the rainbow come fight night. It won't matter. This fight will only serve to hurt his legacy, not help it.

MINOR

From Page 36

Minor is unseeded in the main draw and was not lucky enough to draw a bye in the first round. Gregor and seven others drew byes in the opening round after being seeded in the girls U16 singles. The list includes Katerina Valos, Alyssa Savill, Emily Ryan, Kristen McSweeney, Imke Barnard, Bronwyn Plowman, and Hope Curtis-McDonald.

In the doubles event, Minor is also unseeded with California's Sabine Ludwig as her teammate. Minor and Ludwig's foes will be Fiji's Tarani Kamoe and Annie Shannon.

Only nine pairs are battling for the doubles crown with the

Top 4 seeds Gregor and Ryan, Barnard and Savill, Eliza Benson and Curtis-McDonald, and Valos and Sweeney drawing byes in the first round and automatically advancing to the quarterfinals.

Minor, Shannon, Kamoe, and Guam's Chloe Gadsen are entered in the 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships as part of the Junior ITF Pacific Oceania Touring Team.

Gadsen was playing in the girls U14 singles and was set to duel Aoi Ishino of Wodonga in the first round yesterday.

After the tournament in Wodonga, Minor and company will return to Melbourne to watch games in the 2011 Australian Open. The CNMI netter will then return to Saipan on Jan. 23.

AYUYUS

From Page 36

Sahj Hossain's turn to catch fire, sizzling for 31 markers. Hossain had only two points in their first game before redeeming himself in the second.

The lanky swingman had 10 markers in the opening period where Kagman started controlling the game. After the Ayuyus led by only four, 8-4, midway in the first period, Hossain anchored a 13-2 windup for a 21-6 lead.

In that rally, Hossain scored eight of the Ayuyus' last 10 points in the first quarter, connecting on breakaway layups. Kagman picked up easy baskets after forcing Southern to numer-

ous errors in the closing stages of the first period.

On offense, the Rays were lost, either taking only one attempt each play or throwing errant passes. Southern players had to rely on their individual skills to make a basket, as their set up plays—or the lack of it—could not save them from falling to a deep hole early.

In contrast, the Ayuyus had a well-run offense with their different offensive threats. At the post, Savali was unstoppable, while Hossain kept on attacking the baseline for easy layups. Ichitaro Faisao, who missed the game against Mt. Carmel, had 11 markers, making most of them off daredevil drives. Juan Maratita had a quiet six points, but used himself as a decoy

against Southern's defense to open up scoring opportunities for his teammates.

Ahead by 15 after the first period, Kagman was a bit complacent in the second quarter, allowing Southern to pick up its scoring and trim the lead to 11 at the break, 37-26.

However, the Ayuyus stepped on the pedal anew in the third canto to pull away, 61-40. Again, Hossain led Kagman's breakaway in the third quarter, drilling 10 points.

Hossain then slowed down in the fourth period, but Talalemoto picked up the slot to keep Kagman's comfortable lead in the payoff canto.

Talalemoto finished with 15 points, two more than Southern's leading scorer,

Tristan Ecalnea, who canned in 13. Ecalnea was the lone double-figure scorer for the Manta Rays.

Meanwhile, Southern hopes to break into the win column when it battles Grace Christian Academy (1-1) in the second varsity game today. In the first varsity match at 4:30pm, MHS will take on the winless Mt. Carmel (0-2).

KHS 78 – Hossain 31, Talamotu 15, Faisao 11, Maratita 6, Palacios 5, Ogo 5, F. Mettao 3, Babauta 2.

SSHS 54 – Ecalnea 13, Tudela 7, Jung 6, Muna 6, Salem 6, Ngeskebei 5, Ferrer 3, Remeliik 2, Alegre 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-6, 37-26, 61-40, 78-54.

MHS

From Page 36

The season continues next

Thursday, Jan. 20, beginning at 4:30pm when Grace Christian Academy takes the court for the first time to battle MHS 2 on the north end, while KHS

hosts SSHS on the south court. Then at 5:30pm, GCA will stay on the north court to challenge visiting SIS, while MHS 2 hosts its sister team MHS 1

on the south end.

For more information about the MISO Girls Varsity Volleyball season, email Nick Gross at nickgross07@gmail.com.

FUTSAL

From Page 36

at 9am, it will be a battle of U18 teams with Matansa taking on Marianas High School. Matansa's U18 squad finished second in the B league with its 5-2-1 card, 31 goals for and 16 goals against, while MHS U18 team ended up in seventh place with its 1-7-0 record, 18 goals for, and 35 goals against.

The third playoff game of the night at 10am will pit A league top-ranked Paire against fourth placer Independents Football Club 2. Paire was unbeaten in

the league (for advanced players) with its 6-0-1 slate. The A league leader collected 29 goals and gave up only nine. IFC 2 failed to make it to the win column in the regular season, dropping six matches and drawing one. IFC 2 scored 11 goals, 17 more of the goals it gave up in the regular season.

The other playoff game in the A league between third-ranked MP United and second seed IFC 1 is set for 1pm. IFC 1 earned four wins, one loss, and one draw in the regular season, tallying 24 goals and giving up eight. MP United placed third after gaining two wins, drop-

ping five games, and drawing one match. MPU logged 22 goals and gave up 27.

The remaining two matches in the B league are scheduled for 11am and 12pm. At 11am, No. 3 Shirley's Coffee Shop will take on No. 6 Matansa. Shirley's had a 5-2-1 mark in the regular season against Matansa's 1-3-3 slate. Shirley's had 31 goals for and 16 goals against over Matansa's 16 and 23.

In the last B league game, Tan Holdings FC will duel MP United 1. Tan Holdings placed fourth in the regular season, sporting a 5-3-0 slate against the fifth-ranked MP United 1, which earned a 3-4-

0 card. In eight games, Tan Holdings tallied 33 goals and gave up 23, while MP United 1 scored 22 and allowed 24 goals.

Winners of the four playoff games in the B league will advance to the semifinals on Jan. 22, while victors in the A league this Saturday will square off for the championship, also next Saturday. The A league title match is set for 12pm, followed by the championship game in the B league at 1pm.

Each game in the playoffs will be played in two 25-minute halves and teams are advised to strictly follow the schedule. Matches starting late will be shortened.

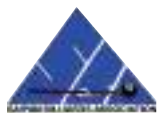
TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
NBA STANDINGS									
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	29	9	.763	—					
New York	22	16	.579	7					
Philadelphia	15	23	.395	14					
Toronto	13	25	.342	16					
New Jersey	10	28	.263	19					
Southeast Division									
Miami	30	10	.750	—					
Orlando	25	13	.658	4					
Atlanta	26	14	.650	4					
Charlotte	15	21	.417	13					
Washington	10	26	.278	18					
Central Division									
Chicago	25	13	.658	—					
Indiana	16	20	.444	8					
Milwaukee	14	22	.389	10					
Detroit	12	26	.316	13					
Cleveland	8	30	.211	17					
WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Southwest Division									
San Antonio	33	6	.846	—					
Dallas	26	11	.703	6					
New Orleans	23	16	.590	10					
Memphis	18	21	.462	15					
Houston	17	22	.436	16					
Northwest Division									
Oklahoma City	26	13	.667	—					
Utah	26	13	.667	—					
Denver	21	16	.568	4					
Portland	20	19	.513	6					
Minnesota	9	30	.231	17					
Pacific Division									
L.A. Lakers	29	11	.725	—					
Phoenix	16	21	.432	11 1/2					
Golden State	15	23	.395	13					
L.A. Clippers	13	24	.351	14 1/2					
Sacramento	8	28	.222	19					
Yesterday's Games									
Charlotte 96, Chicago 91									
Indiana 102, Dallas 89									
Atlanta 104, Toronto 101									
Boston 119, Sacramento 95									
Memphis 107, Detroit 99									
San Antonio 91, Milwaukee 84									
New Orleans 92, Orlando 89, OT									
Oklahoma City 118, Houston 112									
Phoenix 118, New Jersey 109, OT									
Utah 131, New York 125									
L.A. Lakers 115, Golden State 110									
L.A. Clippers 111, Miami 105									
FG Percentage									
	FG	FGA	PCT						
Hilario, DEN	171	273	.626						
Okafor, NOR	162	279	.581						
Odom, LAL	239	422	.566						
Howard, ORL	259	459	.564						
Horford, ATL	274	488	.561						
Ibaka, OKC	152	271	.561						
Boozer, CHI	184	329	.559						
Millsap, UTA	265	485	.546						
Nowitzki, DAL	260	477	.545						
Young, PHL	182	337	.540						
Rebounds									
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT					
AVG									
Love, MIN	38	185	411	596	15.7				
Howard, ORL	35	122	336	458	13.1				
Randolph, MEM	34	153	281	434	12.8				
Griffin, LAC	36	141	314	455	12.6				
Camby, POR	35	114	284	398	11.4				
Gasol, LAL	38	134	277	411	10.8				
Okafor, NOR	38	111	268	379	10.0				
Odom, LAL	38	92	280	372	9.8				
Horford, ATL	39	98	278	376	9.6				
Duncan, SAN	37	103	242	345	9.3				
Assists									
	G	AST	AVG						
Rondo, BOS	26	348	13.4						
Nash, PHX	33	353	10.7						
Paul, NOR	38	369	9.7						
Williams, UTA	38	355	9.3						
Wall, WAS	23	203	8.8						
Felton, NYK	36	313	8.7						
Kidd, DAL	36	312	8.7						
Rose, CHI	36	292	8.1						
Westbrook, OKC	38	305	8.0						
Calderon, TOR	31	245	7.9						
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS									
NBA LEADERS									
Scoring									
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG				
Durant, OKC	34	318	267	960	28.2				

Budweiser Cup Open 8-Ball finals pairing set



The top-ranked NTT Docomo Hustlers, left, will go into Jonny's Bar & Grill to take on the third-seeded IT&E Voyagers in the 2nd SBA Open 8-Ball League's Agingan Division Budweiser Cup Championship Tuesday night.

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The finals pairing in the Agingan and Obyan divisions of Saipan Billiards Association's 2nd Open League 8-Ball League Budweiser Cup are set after the conclusion of semifinal matches Tuesday night.

In the Agingan Division, third seed IT&E Voyagers will host top-ranked Utopia Bar-Commo Hustlers at Jonny's Bar & Grill on Jan. 18.

Two D'Pirates Bar & Grill

teams, meanwhile, will battle it out for the Obyan Division Bud Cup championship as No. 5 Pirates host second-ranked and sister team Who-Oah! also Tuesday night.

The Bud Cup playoffs is a race to four wins out of a seven-match series. By rule, underdog teams are awarded home team advantage.

Last Tuesday, Hustlers advanced to the final round after knocking out Incredibles, 4-1, in five games on the road at Buddies Bar & Grill.

The Incredibles won the opening doubles game by tie-

breaker, but the Hustlers recovered and won a string of four matches, one by tiebreaker, for the win.

The visiting Voyagers, meanwhile, finished off the Home Boyz, 4-1, at Jonny's to advance to the Agingan Division finals.

The Voyagers took control early in their matchup and won both doubles pairings, the second by tiebreaker, and then won the first singles contest. Then they dropped a two-rack game to the Home Boyz before finishing them off with a third sweep of the night.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

In the Obyan Division, the Pirates advanced to the championship after nipping the Turtles, 4-3, in a back-and-forth road game at USS Peleliu Club, while visiting team Who-Oah! eliminated Toro-Key-Ree, 4-1, at VFW Post 3457.

The Pirates lost the opening doubles match by tiebreaker but recovered to sweep the second doubles game. The Turtles fought back and took the first singles contest, gave up the second singles match by tiebreaker, and won the third singles game to take a

3-2 lead. However, the Pirates turned it on down in the home stretch and won the last two singles contests, the very last by tiebreaker.

Toro-Key-Ree won its opening doubles match via tie-

breaker, but crumbled against Who-Oah! in the next four games. Who-Oah! swept the second doubles contest and went on to win three singles matches in a row, the first two via tiebreaker.

SSC to host pre-XTERRA, Tagaman swim races

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Saipan Swim Club will be holding two ocean swim races next month that will help prepare athletes for the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championships and 2011 Tagaman Triathlon.

First up in the SSC calendar is the Tank 2 Tank Swim on Feb. 6 in the waters off the former AJ's Restaurant in Susupe. Then on Feb. 26, the club will have the 6th Annual Meek and Mighty Swim.

Venue of the Meek and Mighty Swim has yet to be determined, but last year the open water race was held in the waters off Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

At PIC, father and son Kieran and Bryce Daly led winners of



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Father and son, Kieran and Bryce Daly, run to the shore during last year's SSC Meek and Mighty Swim in the waters off Pacific Islands Club.

the fifth edition of the event. The older Daly timed in at 43 minutes and .09 seconds against Bryce's 43:10 in the 3-kilometer swim or the Tweener division. Kento Akimaru made it to the Top 3 of the 3K race after clocking in at 43:38.

In the 5K swim (Mighty di-

vision), Andres Buitrago completed the five laps in 1:00:19 to eclipse the 1:02:00 Cooper Graf recorded in 2009. Coming in at second place was Andrew Kimball (1:08:24) followed by his sibling, Grace Kimball (1:10:22), Gary De Guzman (1:14:38), and Carol

Lynn Pierce (1:15:26).

In the Meek division (1K race), the Top 3 finishers were Lennosuke Suzuki (17:31), Taiga Sato (17:41), and John Douglas (18:45).

Both races in February are good warm-up events for CNMI athletes participating in two prestigious triathlon competitions in the Commonwealth in March.

The 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship is set for March 12 with the 1.5-km swim leg of the race taking place in the waters off Micro Beach. The 2011 Tagaman Triathlon is set for the following week, March 19, and will have a longer swim leg (2K) in the waters off PIC.

The two triathlon races are expected to draw not only local athletes, but also off-island participants from Korea, Guam, and Japan.

All slots filled for Chamolinian League

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Registration is closed for Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Annual Budweiser 2011 Slow-Pitch Softball League.

CSA official Joey Dela Cruz said 15 men's and five women's teams have already been confirmed and have paid in full. Details of the team names will be released next week.

"We're ready to go for the season and are ironing out some final logistics for the league right now," said Dela Cruz.

In addition, there will be a final coaches meeting at 6:30pm on Jan. 21 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Important topics to be discussed include details about the opening ceremony, game schedules, a dissertation of the ground rules, and other related matters.

The league kicks off on Jan. 28 with defending champion Natibu drawing an automatic bid in the 6:30pm game opener after conclusion of the CSA opening ceremony at the Capital Hill Ball Field. Three games will be played on opening day.

All teams are required to attend the opening ceremony, as Natibu's opponent will be randomly selected in a lottery format.

Additionally the five women's teams will also raffle to see who will play in the opening women's division opener at 7:30pm.

Finally, two more men's teams will draw to see who plays in the finale 8:30pm men's division game.

The regular season men's division games are scheduled for 6:30pm and 8:30pm on Mondays and Fridays,



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Edward Mendiola delivers a pitch during a local softball tournament last year at the Capital Hill Ballfield, which will be the venue of Chamolinian Softball Association's 2nd Annual Budweiser 2011 Slow-Pitch Softball League.

with three games featured on Wednesdays that start hourly from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The women's games will be played in between the men's games on Monday and Friday evenings at 7:30pm. All games will be played at the Capitol Hill field.

Both divisions will exhibit a round-robin format.

Last year, 21 men's teams competed in a double-elimination format. In the 2010 finals, top seeded Natibu defeated Man Amigos, 20-18, to take home CSA's perpetual trophy.

For more information, contact Mark Palacios at 322-7444, Liz Palacios at 287-8869, or email Dela Cruz at budkingsbaseball@yahoo.com.

2011 SML season opens Feb. 2; meeting next Thursday

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



The 2011 Saipan Major League Baseball season opener is set for Feb. 2, 2011 at Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

All teams and other interested parties are invited to attend an organizational meeting next Thursday, Jan. 20, 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

Some important topics to be discussed at the meeting include more details about the opening date, the number of competing teams, entrance fees, team rosters, ground rules, accident insurance, waivers, and other related matters.

Players, coaches, umpires, league officials, and anyone else affiliated with the SML are urged to attend.

Last year the Fielders defeated the Falcons in the semifinals and went on to down the Brewers, 3-2, in the best-of-

five 2010 SML championship series. The Fielders fell in a hole early in the series and lost the first two games, but rallied back to take the last three games for the 2010 title.

They won Game 3, 13-6, Game 4, 6-5, and blew up the scoreboard in the final game, 20-9, to complete the comeback.

Fielders shortstop John Reyes walked away with the 2010 most valuable player award for the championship and star pitcher Shane Mendiola won both the Pitcher of the Year and

the strikeout champion awards.

Other Fielders awardees included first baseman Ryan Ada, who won the Infield Golden Glove Award; and Ryan Lisua, who went home with Outfield Golden Glove honors.

During the awards ceremony after the last game Fielders head coach Juan Manibusan expressed that the team will be back to defend its title.

For more information on the 2011 season of the SML, call coordinator Tony Rogolifoi at 288-3515.

**Hornets win
in overtime
to snap
Magic streak**
PAGE 31

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Budweiser Cup
finals pairing set**

PAGE 35

36 FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ayuyus clobber Rays in varsity game

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Kagman High School had another dominating win in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League after demolishing Saipan Southern High School, 78-54, last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



The victory was the second in as many games for the Ayuyus in the varsity division, putting them in a tie for first place with the MHS Dolphins, while the Manta Rays fell to a 0-2 record. In those two triumphs, the defending champions posted a winning average of 23.5 points. Last Monday, Kagman played its first game of the season and won by 23 points against Mt. Carmel School, 79-56.

Against the MCS Knights, Savali Talalemoto exploded for 32 big points, but this time versus the Rays, it was

See AYUYUS on Page 34

Kagman High School's Sahj Hossain pulls up for a shot against two Saipan Southern High School defenders during their varsity game in the MISO caging last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



MHS 1, SIS debut with wins in v-ball

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Marianas High School 1 and Saipan International School defeated their respective opponents as the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Varsity Volleyball season kicked off yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.

In addition, MHS 1 also received an easy second win of the season, winning by forfeit as a result of Saipan Southern High School's no-show. Results of the last game between SIS and KHS were not available as of press time.

MHS 1 downed Kagman High School, 2-1, on the south court. The

Dolphins took the first match, 25-15, but KHS roared back to take the second set, 26-24. Then in the final game MHS 1 reassumed control and won the final set, 15-8.

Visiting SIS brought offensive firepower with them off the bus and dominated MHS 2 in the first two sets. They took the first match, 25-5, and kept the momentum rolling to win the second set, 25-7, and secure automatic team victory. MHS 2 did save face and managed to win the final set, 15-12.

The first two sets are played to 25 with a cap of 30, while the third set has a designated game point of 15 with no cap. By rule the third set must be played in each matchup.

See MHS on Page 34



WALTER SUTHERLAND

A Marianas High School 1 player stops the ball in the second set of their match against Saipan Southern High School at the start of the MISO Girls Varsity Volleyball season yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.

Futsal league starts playoffs tomorrow



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of Tan Holdings FC huddle before their B league regular season game against MP United at the JP Center Basketball Court.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Playoff games in the 2010 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League will begin this Saturday at the Marianas High School.

All teams will be playing in the single-elimination playoff round in the A and B leagues. The B league, which is for recreational players, will kick off the playoffs with Paire Football Club taking on MP United 2 at 8am. Paire topped the eight-team B league with its 6-0-2 win-loss-draw record. In eight games, Paire scored 29 goals and gave up 16 to gain 20 points and take the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs.

MP United B is seeded last in the playoffs with its 0-7-1 slate. MPU 2 scored only nine goals and allowed its foe to make 34 goals.

In the second B league playoff game

See FUTSAL on Page 34

Minor draws unseeded foe in last tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Thea Minor played in her last tournament in Australia yesterday and was scheduled to duel an unseeded opponent in the 2011 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships in Wodonga, Victoria.

The Saipan Southern High School freshman was pitted against New Caledonia's Yaelle Yonakoko in the first round of the girls U16 singles 32-player main draw. The Minor-Yonakoko tiff was set for 11:45am yesterday (1:45pm) on Saipan, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

If Minor wins her first match, she will go up against a tough foe in the second round in tournament top seed Maddison Gregor of Sydney. Gregor's first game in the main draw was also set for yesterday at 2:45pm, so if Minor prevails over Yonakoko, the CNMI netter was to play back-to-back games with only a few minutes of rest.

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